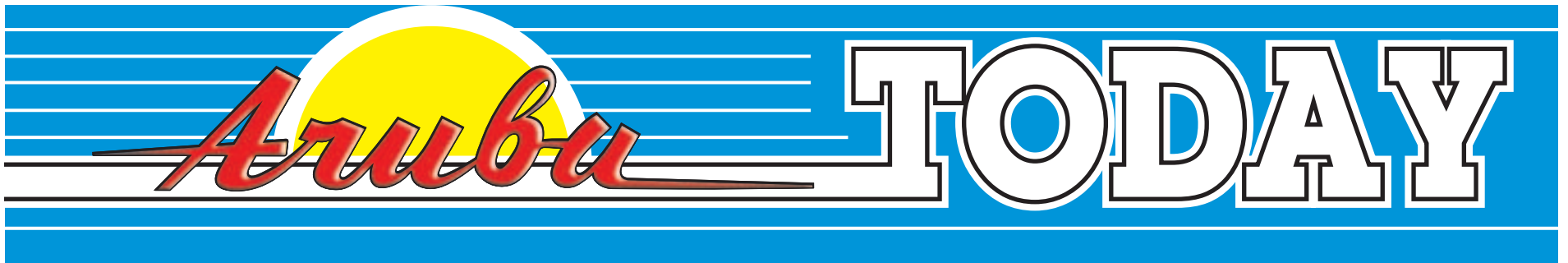




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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, October 2, 2014

OVER AND OUT



Secret Service Director Julia Pierson testifies before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Sept. 30, 2014. Administration officials said on Wednesday that Pierson was resigning, a day after lawmakers from both parties assailed her leadership and said that they feared for the president's safety.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Secret Service Head Resigns Over Security Lapses

MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON - Julia Pierson, the director of the Secret Service, has resigned in the wake of several security breaches. Pierson offered her resignation Wednesday during a meeting with Jeh C. Johnson, the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the agency that oversees the Secret Service. The resignation came less than a day after lawmakers from both parties assailed Pierson's leadership and said they feared for the lives of the president and others in the protection of the agency.

In a statement, Johnson said that he had appointed Joseph Clancy, a former agent in charge of the Presidential Protective Division, to become the Secret Service's acting director. President Barack Obama concluded that new leadership and a new direction was needed at the Secret Service "in light of recent and accumulating reports about the agency," Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, told reporters Wednesday. On Sept. 19, an intruder jumped over the fence around the White House and made it deep into the mansion. And late Tuesday, the agency acknowledged that just days before that breach, an armed man was allowed to ride in an elevator with the president during an event at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Continued on page 3

Hong Kong: Protesters threaten to occupy city buildings

**JOANNA CHIU
KELVIN CHAN**
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Raising the stakes in their standoff with the authorities, Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters threatened to occupy key government buildings unless the territory's top official resigns by the end of the day Thursday. The Chinese government, meanwhile, appeared to be losing patience. An

1997, thousands of demonstrators have clogged the streets of the Asian financial center since Friday, demanding freer elections in Hong Kong.

Storming government buildings would risk inviting another clash with police like the one over the weekend. It also would put pressure on the Chinese government, which has backed Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's attempts to end the

against public order. One of the protest leaders, Lester Shum, vice secretary of the Hong Kong Federation of Students, said there was "no room for dialogue" with Leung because he had ordered police to fire tear gas at demonstrators over the weekend. "Leung Chun-ying must step down. If he doesn't resign by tomorrow, we will step up our actions, such as by occupying several important government build-

without listening to Hong Kong people," he said in an interview on the street. The protests were triggered by Beijing's recent decision that all candidates in the inaugural 2017 election for Hong Kong's top post must be approved by a committee of mostly pro-Beijing local elites. In a speech early Wednesday marking National Day, the anniversary of the 1949 founding of Communist China, Leung did not



A demonstrator delivers a speech to some of the tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters as they continue to occupy the main thoroughfares in the financial district of Hong Kong, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Student leaders of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong warned Wednesday that if the territory's leader doesn't resign by the end of Thursday they will step up their actions, including occupying several important government buildings.

(AP Photo/Wally Santana)

editorial solemnly read Wednesday on state TV said all Hong Kong residents should support authorities in their efforts to "deploy police enforcement decisively" and "restore the social order in Hong Kong as soon as possible." And the Communist Party-run People's Daily warned of "unimaginable consequences" if the protests persist. In the biggest challenge to Beijing's authority since China took control of the former British colony in

protests but has not openly intervened. In Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and said the U.S. supports the "highest possible degree of autonomy" in Hong Kong. He said he hopes Hong Kong authorities exercise restraint and allow the protesters to express their views peacefully. Wang said that the protests are "China's internal affairs" and that no country would allow "illegal acts"

ings," he said, adding that demonstrators would not interfere with essential government agencies such as hospitals and social welfare offices. Chan Kin-man, another protest leader, said the demonstrations will continue as long as the Hong Kong government fails to give a satisfactory response to their demands. "I hope people will understand why the action keeps on escalating. It's because the government is getting more and more closed

mention the protesters, but told voters it would be better to agree to Beijing's plan and hold an election than to keep the current system, in which an Election Commission chooses the chief executive. Protesters heckled Leung after he arrived for the flag-raising ceremony. Hundreds yelled at him to step down, then fell silent and turned their backs when the ceremony began. As the protests have worn on, Beijing's tone has hardened.

Taliban stage attacks after security deal

AZAM AHMED
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KABUL, Afghanistan - Two suicide attacks targeting military transport vehicles here Wednesday killed seven Afghan soldiers and wounded nearly 20 others, officials said, one of the deadliest strikes on security forces in the capital since the summer fighting season began.

The attacks came a day after the government signed a crucial security deal with the United States that paves the way for a long-term U.S. troop presence, a pact the Taliban vehemently opposed. The group quickly issued a statement claiming responsibility for the assaults. "By signing the agreement, the status of the Kabul administration, in particular the status of soldiers and police, is clear," the Taliban said in a statement. "They are working for the interests of others, and their killing is important."

The first attacker, wearing an explosive vest, boarded a full bus in the Karte Char neighborhood of Kabul. The blast killed seven soldiers and wounded 15 people, including civilians, said Hashmatullah Stanikzai, the spokesman for the police in Kabul.

Heavy violence has been the hallmark of the fighting season, with the army and the police sustaining heavy casualties from a withering Taliban assault. Afghan officials have said that the past six months, starting in late March, were the deadliest for police officers in the 13-year war in Afghanistan. Historically, police casualties have typically been double the level of those of the army. Much of the fighting in recent months has taken place outside the major cities of Afghanistan, although Kabul, the capital, has not been spared. Two weeks ago, a suicide car bomber killed three coalition soldiers and wounded five others at the gates of a U.S. military base in the city.

Secret Service head resigns over security lapses



White House press secretary Josh Earnest arrives for his daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, where he spoke about the resignation of Secret Service Director Julia Pierson amid a recent White House security breach.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Continued from Front

Without directly saying so, Earnest strongly suggested that the elevator incident - and the fact that the White House had learned of it "just minutes" before it was reported Tuesday - tipped the scales against Pierson. "I think you could assume that is part of the recent and accumulating reports" that caused the president to change his view, Earnest said.

It was not clear what had changed since Wednesday morning, when Earnest and other top White House officials took to morning television shows to say that the president retained full confidence in Pierson.

But Obama and Johnson ultimately shared Pierson's assessment that she needed to resign for the good of the Secret Service.

"She believed it was in the best interests of the agency to which she has dedicated her career," Earnest said, and the president agreed.

Obama spoke with Pierson by telephone Wednesday and thanked her for her service, Earnest said.

Johnson said that he was directing his deputy at the Department of Homeland Security to oversee an internal review of the Sept. 19 incident.

And bowing to growing demands by Democratic and Republican members of Congress for an outside inquiry, Johnson said that he would appoint a "distinguished panel of independent experts" to report

recommendations to him by Dec. 15.

"I will also request that the panel advise me about whether it believes, given the series of recent events, there should be a review of broader issues concerning

the Secret Service," Johnson said in the statement. "The security of the White House compound should be the panel's primary and immediate priority."

It is unclear whether the creation of that panel will be enough to satisfy critics of Pierson and the agency, who said over the last 24 hours that they had lost confidence in the agency's ability to protect the president and his family.

In a brief interview with Del Quentin Wilber, a reporter for Bloomberg News, Pierson said that she resigned because "Congress has lost confidence in my ability to run the agency," according to a Twitter message from Wilber shortly after the resignation was announced.

Wilber also wrote that Pierson said: "I can be pretty stoic about all this, but not really. It's painful to leave." Pierson, a 30-year veteran of the Secret Service, was supposed to have been the one to repair the agency's reputation after scan-

dals involving drinking and prostitution during foreign trips.

But her tenure has been rocked by more serious allegations that her agents and officers have not been performing their primary job competently. Under intense questioning on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Pierson admitted that those charged with securing the White House had failed to follow numerous security protocols.

Rep. Elijah J. Cummings, D-Md., commended Pierson for stepping down, saying that her resignation was in the best interest of the Secret Service and the president. But he said more change was necessary, including possibly, more resignations.

"I think we need to look beyond her resignation," Cumming said in an interview. "I don't want us, after she's left, to say to ourselves that everything is resolved. Clearly there was a culture there that was not healthy." □

Not guilty plea for man in White House incident

PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man accused of jumping a fence at the White House pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges that he ran into the presidential mansion while carrying a knife.

A lawyer for defendant Omar J. Gonzalez, David Bos, entered the plea on his client's behalf in a 20-minute proceeding that grew very contentious because of a disagreement between Bos and U.S. Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson.

Wearing a standard prison-issue orange jump suit, Gonzalez sat attentively at the defense table, but did not address the court.

Robinson wants Gonzalez to undergo a forensic screening to determine whether he is competent to stand trial.

Bos opposed that, telling reporters he does not want to provide the government

with an extensive amount of information about his client that would be revealed by a forensic screening. Bos said Gonzalez is competent to stand trial, an assertion that marked the start of a dispute over

whether Gonzalez will have to undergo the screening. After the court session, Robinson ordered that Gonzalez undergo the screening on Oct. 17.

A defense attorney's view about the competency

of his client is a factor that should be considered, but other information should be gathered before the court calls into question whether Gonzalez understood the proceedings, Robinson wrote in an order. □



This courtroom artist rendering shows U.S. Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson, left, presiding during Omar J. Gonzalez's, center, case in court in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Gonzalez, accused of jumping a fence at the White House pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges that he ran into the presidential mansion while carrying a knife.

(AP Photo/Dana Verkouteren)

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AP-GfK Poll: Divided voters still focus on economy

JENNIFER AGIESTA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nothing matters to American voters as much as the economy, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll released Wednesday. Nine in 10 of those most likely to go to the polls or mail in a ballot in this year's midterm elections call the economy an extremely or very important issue. The poll found that concerns about the state of the economy have grown since July, with 6 in 10 Americans now calling the U.S. role in world affairs an important issue, up from 51 percent in July. And most people remain dissatisfied with those in

power. Just 7 percent of likely voters approve of Congress' job performance, 42 percent approve of President Barack Obama's job performance. Asked how they feel about his administration, 58 percent are dissatisfied or angry, while 74 percent were dissatisfied or angry with the Republican leadership in Congress. Few see change coming once voting closes Nov. 4. A majority of likely voters, 52 percent, expect the Democratic Party to retain control of the Senate, with 68 percent saying the Republican Party will keep the House. About 8 in 10 likely voters deemed several issues important, including the

threat posed by the Islamic State group, terrorism and health care. But all told, 92 percent of likely voters called the economy an extremely or very important issue. Concerns about the economy are fueled by perceptions that things aren't getting better. Just 38 percent of likely voters describe the economy as "good," and half as many think there's been improvement in the last month. Only 34 percent expect improvement in the coming year. A shift in focus toward the threat of terrorism could benefit the Republican Party, the poll suggests. About 4 in 10 likely voters trust Republicans more to protect the country while just a

quarter prefer Democrats. On handling the economy, however, Republicans holds a much smaller edge, 36 percent to 31 percent for Democrats. Asked which party they'd like to see win Congress, 45 percent of likely voters prefer Republicans and 42 percent Democrats. In their own districts, those surveyed are split: 33 percent back a Democratic candidate, 33 percent a Republican, 10 percent another candidate and 23 percent are undecided. In places where Senate campaigns are nearly impossible to avoid, voters aren't bullish on Republicans' chances of taking the Senate.

Among likely voters in 10 states with competitive Senate races, 52 percent think Democrats will hold the Senate while 49 percent think Republicans will take control. These voters are also split on which party ought to control Congress, 44 percent favor each party. Among all likely voters, majorities have unfavorable opinions of each party — 96 percent say they are dissatisfied or angry with the leadership of one side or the other. Among those who prefer a Republican-controlled Congress, 52 percent say they're dissatisfied or angry with the current Republican leadership. □

Threat leads to evacuation of Sandy Hook school

MONROE, Conn. (AP) — A bomb threat called into Sandy Hook Elementary School on Wednesday led authorities to order students, including many who lived through the 2012 massacre, out of the building.

Police checked the school building and grounds after the threat was received at 9:30 a.m. and did not find evidence of danger, according to Monroe Police Lt. Brian McCauley. He said the evacuation was ordered as a precaution



This photo shows the Sandy Hook Elementary School, relocated to the former Chauk Hill School building in Monroe, Conn., after the original building in neighboring Newtown was razed following a Dec. 14, 2012, shooting rampage where 26 people were killed.

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

and the investigation is continuing. "All students and staff are safe," Newtown First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra said in a written statement. "The building and grounds will be thoroughly searched and cleared of any concern." After the December 2012

shootings, students enrolled at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown began taking classes at a school in the neighboring town of Monroe, also called Sandy Hook Elementary. The original school building was torn down last year. Classes were dismissed

early and students were moved to a nearby school in Monroe to be picked up by their parents, according to Nancy Bartosik of the Monroe superintendent's office. Newtown police responded to the site along with Monroe police. A single gunman, Adam Lanza, killed 20 first-graders and six educators at the school on Dec. 14, 2012. Lanza also shot his mother in their Newtown home before going on the rampage and then committing suicide. Federal investigators have taken interest in earlier threats to Newtown. In June, Wilfredo Cardenas Hoffman, of Venezuela, was arrested at a Miami airport and charged with making threatening phone calls to Newtown residents in the days following the shooting. His defense attorneys say he had received psychiatric care in his home country. □



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Ebola patient told hospital he was from Liberia

PAUL J. WEBER
LAURAN NEERGARD
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The first Ebola patient diagnosed in the U.S. initially went to a Dallas emergency room last week but was sent home, despite telling a nurse that he had been in disease-ravaged West Africa, the hospital acknowledged Wednesday. The decision by Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital to release him could have put many others at risk of exposure to the disease before he went back to the ER two days later, after his condition worsened. Thomas Eric Duncan explained to a nurse Friday that he was visiting the U.S. from Liberia, but that information was not widely shared, said Dr. Mark Lester, who works for the hospital's parent company. Duncan's answer "was not fully communicated" throughout the hospital's medical team, Lester said. Instead, the patient was sent home with antibiotics, according to his sister, Mai Wureh, who identified her brother as the infected man in an interview with The Associated Press. Antibiotics, which target bacteria, are generally



Dr. Mark Lester, front center, speaks during a news conference at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, in Dallas. Lester confirmed that a nurse asked an infected Ebola patient on his first visit to the hospital whether he had been in an area affected by the Ebola outbreak that has killed thousands in West Africa, but that "information was not fully communicated throughout the whole team."

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

ineffective against Ebola, which is caused by a virus. A day after the man's diagnosis was confirmed, a nine-member team of federal health officials was tracking anyone who had close contact with him. The team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was in Dallas to work with local and state health agencies to ensure that those people are watched every day for 21 days.

"If anyone develops fever, we'll immediately isolate them to stop the chain of transmission," Dr. Tom Frieden, the CDC director, said in an interview. Duncan has been kept in isolation at the hospital since Sunday. He was listed in serious but stable condition. Ebola is believed to have sickened more than 7,100 people in West Africa, and more than 3,300 deaths have been linked to the

disease, according to the World Health Organization. Officials are monitoring 12 to 18 people who may have been exposed to the man, including three members of the ambulance crew that transported him to the hospital and five schoolchildren. Some of the people are members of his family, but not all, Dallas city spokeswoman Sana Syed said. The ambulance crew tested negative for the virus and was restricted to home while their conditions are observed. The children, who attend four separate schools, apparently had contact with the man over

the weekend and then returned to classes this week. But school officials have said they showed no symptoms. Ebola symptoms can include fever, muscle pain, vomiting and bleeding, and can appear as long as 21 days after exposure to the virus. The disease is not contagious until symptoms begin. Officials said there are no other suspected cases in Texas, but the diagnosis sent anxiety through the area's West African community, whose leaders urged caution to prevent spreading the virus. The man left Liberia on Sept. 19, arrived the next day to visit relatives and started feeling ill four or five days later, Frieden said. Frieden said he did not believe anyone on the same flights as the patient was at risk. The man traveled from his home in the Liberian capital of Monrovia to Brussels and then to Dallas, according to a spokeswoman for the Belgium health ministry, Vinciane Charlier. "Ebola doesn't spread before someone gets sick, and he didn't get sick until four days after he got off the airplane," Frieden said. A woman at the Dallas apartment complex where Duncan was believed to be staying declined to answer questions Wednesday. □

Girl missing for 12 years found with mom in Mexico

JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas girl reported kidnapped 12 years ago was found near Mexico City with her mother after authorities received a tip, and the mother was quickly flown to Texas and jailed on kidnapping charges, investigators said Wednesday. The FBI and Mexico authorities said 17-year-old Sabrina Allen, whose case was twice profiled on the television show "America's Most Wanted," was found Tuesday night in Papalotla, Tlaxcala. She was 4 years old when she was reported missing by her father in 2002, after she vanished following a weekend visit

with her mother. "She's in pretty bad shape as far as my understanding," her father, Gregory Allen, said during a news conference with the FBI and Austin police on Wednesday. "She was not living a regular life. She has not been going to school." Allen said he has not yet seen his daughter but knew what his first question would be: "I'm going to ask her if I can give her a hug." The teen and her mother, Dara Llorens, were flown back to Texas early Wednesday. Llorens is now jailed in Austin on an aggravated kidnapping charge and being held on a \$300,000 bond. It was not

immediately clear if Llorens has an attorney. U.S. and Mexican authorities said she and her daughter had been living in an apartment, and that Llorens initially put up some resistance to arrest. But investigators released no other details about the arrest or about how long they believed she had been in Mexico with her daughter. Allen said his daughter was meeting with a therapist, but he and authorities declined to say where she was staying. Allen had hired a private investigator to help find his daughter. He said authorities were tipped by a confidential informant but declined to give details. □

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US man gets 30 years in Christmas bomb plot

NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) —

A young Somali American was sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for plotting to detonate a bomb at a square while 10,000 revelers gathered to watch the mayor light a towering Christmas tree. Prosecutors had sought a 40-year term for Mohamed Mohamud, 23, in the 2010 plot that actually was an FBI sting. But U.S. District Court Judge Garr King said Mohamud's youth and remorse for his actions helped lower his sentence. King said he believes the actions of undercover FBI agents edged into "imperfect entrapment," the idea that though they didn't fully entrap Mohamud in a legal sense, their actions nonetheless encouraged him to



FBI Director James B. Comey, right, gestures as U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall stands at left during a news conference in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Comey spoke after the sentencing in federal court of Mohamed Mohamud, who was convicted last year of a terrorism charge. (AP Photo/Don Ryan)

cation and timing of the bomb, King said, and when offered the choice to commit peaceful acts of resistance, he instead told the undercover agents he wanted to "become operational."

Mohamud's defense team had sought a term of no more than 10 years, and said he will appeal the sentence. The former Oregon State University student and his parents spoke before he was sentenced.

"The things I said and did were terrible," Mohamud said. "The hardest thing is to go over the (undercover agents') tapes, to see myself, to hear what I was saying."

His mother, Mariam Barre, begged the judge for leniency.

"Give him another chance," she said through tears on the witness stand. His father, Osman Barre, said he has watched his waifish teenage son become an adult in prison and mature in the process. But King said Mohamud's youth aside, the sentence had to both punish him for his actions and serve as a warning for anyone planning similar acts.

FBI director James Comey said Wednesday that King's remarks about "imperfect entrapment" will have no effect on the agency's sting operations.

Osman Barre was the first person to alert the FBI of his son's early leanings toward violent jihad, something he later said he regretted. The alert led the FBI to launch its sting operation.

Comey said Wednesday that parents in a similar situation ultimately have no other recourse, and he's unsure whether Mohamud's case would discourage them from coming forward. □

Prosecutor to seek death penalty in beheading

SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

NORMAN, Oklahoma (AP) —

District Attorney Greg Mashburn says he plans to seek the death penalty against a man accused of beheading a woman at an Oklahoma food processing plant.

Mashburn told The Associated Press Wednesday that he discussed his plans with the victim's family and that he could file the paperwork as early as this week.

Prosecutors charged 30-year-old Alton Nolen with first-degree murder in the death of Colleen Hufford, and with two counts of assault. A judge Wednesday ordered Nolen held without bond, and Nolen asked the judge to name a Muslim as his court-



In this Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014 photo provided by the Cleveland County, Okla., Sheriff's Department, Alton Nolen is pictured in a booking photo. Nolen has been charged with murder in the first degree in the death of Colleen Hufford, in Moore, Okla. (AP Photo/Cleveland County SD)

appointed lawyer.

Nolen is a recent convert to Islam, and the FBI is investigating because of the nature of the attack,

which followed a series of high-profile videotaped beheadings by Islamic State militants in the Middle East. □

commit wrongdoing.

"This is a sad case," King said.

Mohamud was arrested Nov. 26, 2010, after pressing a keypad button on a cellphone that he believed would trigger a massive truck bomb and kill people gathered for the annual holiday event in the West Coast city of Portland. But the bomb was a fake provided by FBI agents posing as al-Qaida recruiters.

The undercover agents made friends with Mohamud after learning he had written for an online jihadi magazine and exchanged emails with accused terrorists.

King disagreed with defense attorneys who made a last-gasp effort to portray Mohamud's actions as those of a confused teenager who just had his braces removed when first contacted by an FBI agent posing as a member of a terrorist cell.

Mohamud chose the lo-

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US Financial Front:

Pace of US factory activity slipped in September

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The pace of U.S. manufacturing growth slowed in September, as expectations for hiring and new orders slipped from their August levels.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Wednesday that its manufacturing index fell to 56.6 from 59 in August. Anything above 50 signals that manufacturing is growing.

The decline reverses slightly solid gains in the previous two months, putting the index at a level consistent with annual economic growth of "just above 3 percent," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. Growth that strong would outpace the 2.3 percent average of the now five-year recovery from the Great Recession.

Other economists said that the drop may reflect a broader slowdown among U.S. trading partners. Europe's ISM manufacturing index shows growth at its slowest pace in 14 months, with Germany actually contracting. Chinese factories are barely registering any growth in their ISM index, while Brazil and Australia are also experiencing contractions, noted Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

The comments reported by manufacturers surveyed for the index were relatively optimistic.

"We are seeing shipments up, year-over-year, in the 8 to 10 percent range for last couple of months," said a respondent from an apparel and leather firm.



Laurette Eugene assembles a body armor vest at the Point Blank Body Armor factory in Pompano Beach, Fla. Institute for Supply Management released its manufacturing index for September on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. (AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

Similarly, a paper products company described their outlook as "very good." Manufacturers have re-

ported growth for the past 16 months, as the sector has helped drive the recovery. The index's measure of

new orders fell to 60 from a reading of 66.7, while the employment component fell to 54.6 from 58.1. The

one upside is that customer inventories continue to remain low, suggesting that there will be continued demand from factories.

Despite the pullback in employment in the index, the ISM report listed workers as being in "short supply," along with stainless steel.

This matches separate economic reports showing an increase in job openings but sluggish hiring to fill those positions. In theory, a shortage of workers should help lift wages, which have yet to meaningfully increase.

"But so far, at least, we haven't seen indications that they're boosting wages to try to fill positions," said Ted Wieseman, an analyst at Morgan Stanley. □

US construction spending down 0.8 percent

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. construction spending fell in August, the second decline in the past three months, with housing, non-residential and government projects all showing weakness. Construction spending dropped a seasonally adjusted 0.8 percent after a 1.2 percent increase in July, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The July increase followed a 1.6 percent June decline.

The weakness was apparent in all sectors. Housing construction declined 0.1 percent, reflecting a big drop in spending on remodeling. Non-residential construction fell 1.4 percent while spending on govern-

ment projects dropped 0.9 percent.

In addition to the August decline, the government revised lower its estimates for activity in the previous two months. While this could call into question expectations that building activity will support economic growth in the second half of the year, economists at Barclays said they were leaving their forecast for third quarter growth unchanged at 3 percent.

Barclays economist Michael Grapen said while the report signaled a softer start to the third quarter, he was still encouraged with gains shown in single-family and apartment construction. Overall construction spending totaled \$960.96 billion at a seasonally ad-

justed annual rate in August, 5 percent higher than a year ago.

Spending on housing totaled \$351.7 billion at an annual rate in August, 3.7 percent higher than a year ago. The August decline versus July reflected a big drop in home remodeling work which offset small gains in single-family construction and apartment construction.

Spending on non-residential projects totaled \$333.3 billion, 9.2 percent higher than a year ago. In August, spending on office buildings, shopping centers and hospital construction all declined from July.

Government building projects totaled \$253.4 billion, just 1.9 percent higher than a year ago. Construction

activity at all levels of government has been held back by tight budgets. For August, state and local construction spending was down 0.9 percent versus July while federal projects dropped 1.9 percent.

The overall economy went into reverse in the first three months of the year, shrinking at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, in part because of weakness in construction. Housing construction was contracting at a 5.3 percent rate in the first quarter, one of a number of sectors that were hurt by the unusually severe winter.

The economy rebounded in the April-June quarter, growing at an annual rate of 4.6 percent, the best showing in more than two years. □

GM looks to new vehicles, China to boost profit

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

MILFORD, Mich. (AP) — General Motors CEO Mary Barra told investors Wednesday that GM plans a raft of new models and a big push to sell more cars

about 18 percent this year. It rose 1.7 percent in afternoon trading.

GM recalled 2.6 million small cars worldwide earlier this year to fix faulty ignition switches that are now blamed for at least 23

switches can cause the engine to stall, deactivating the air bags.

Barra said GM still expects to pay out \$400 million to \$600 million to compensate ignition switch crash victims. The company has

estimated sales of about 5 million per year. Last year the company sold nearly 3.2 million vehicles in China, compared with 2.8 million in the U.S.

GM hopes Chinese cars buyers embrace Cadillac, the luxury brand that has struggled in the U.S. despite earning numerous awards. GM expects China to become the world's largest luxury car market later this decade, and plans to introduce nine new Cadillacs there over the next five years.

New models also figure prominently in GM's strategy. The company said it expects 27 percent of its global sales to come from new or freshened models next year. That figure rises to 47 percent by 2019 as it accelerates new model rollouts.

The new vehicles, coupled with cost savings and other measures, should get GM to a 10 percent pre-tax profit margin in North America by 2016 and 9 to 10 percent for the whole company by early next decade. Profit margin is the percentage of each dollar in revenue a company actually keeps. In North America, GM is now at 7 percent. □



General Motors CEO Mary Barra addresses the Global Business Conference for investors in Milford, Mich., Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Barra says the company has enough parts available to fix all the faulty ignition switches that are blamed for at least 23 deaths nationwide.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

in China to drive profits in coming years, as the biggest U.S. automaker tries to shift the spotlight from a mishandled recall of older small cars.

Barra needed to reassure investors that GM has a strong plan going forward. The stock has dropped

deaths nationwide. Barra said suppliers have built all the replacement switches, but only about 1.2 million small cars have had the repairs so far.

GM has admitted knowing about the problem for a decade, but only recalled the cars this year. The

hired compensation expert Kenneth Feinberg to pay victims. He made his first offers last week.

The plan Barra outlined Wednesday emphasizes growth in China. GM plans to invest \$14 billion through 2018, including five new assembly plants to support

Ford adding 1,000 new jobs in Canada

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Ford Motor Co. said Wednesday it is adding 1,000 jobs at its plant near Toronto to build the 2015 Ford Edge crossover SUV for the global market.

The new jobs come a year after Ford invested \$700 million into the 5.5 million-square-foot assembly in Oakville, Ontario. Two levels of government in Canada contributed about \$142 million of the \$700 million. Oakville now makes the Ford Edge and Flex crossover SUVs, as well as the Lincoln MKX and Lincoln MKT. The 2015 Edge will be exported to more than 100 countries from Oakville.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said the 1,000 new jobs are a direct result of

her government's nearly \$71 million investment. The federal government also put in \$71.6 million.

Canadian Industry Minister James Moore also welcomed the announcement and said his government's investment helped transform the Oakville plant into one of Ford's most advanced facilities globally.

"It demonstrates once again that Canada is a great place to build cars," Moore said in a statement. The 1,000 new jobs and 300 added last year will bring total employment at the plant to more than 4,000 by the end of 2014. Ford also operates an engine plant in Windsor, Ontario and employs a total of about 6,000 people in Canada. The automaker also said

Wednesday it expects to increase spending on Canadian-made auto parts by \$200 million a year.

The announcement is good news for Canadian auto workers, whose future looked bleak a few years ago because they were paid higher wages than workers in the U.S. Several auto executives called Canada the most expensive place in the world to build automobiles. But in 2012, the workers agreed to a new contract that cut U.S. automakers' costs in the country.

Canadian auto workers voted in favor of a new cost-cutting four-year contract negotiated with Ford that made Canada more competitive with the United States and other countries for auto assembly.

The contract cut wages for new hires and froze pay for current workers. New hires now get about 20 Canadian dollars per hour, about 60 percent of the top wage paid to longtime union members. The new workers will move up the wage scale and reach the top pay in 10 years.

Ford said there would be significant cost savings realized through the wage structure for new employees. Canada's advantages in the past — a weak Canadian dollar and government health care — had all but vanished compared with U.S. factories. But after hovering around par earlier this decade the more recent depreciation of the Canadian dollar has benefited the Canadian auto sector. □

US companies add 213k jobs in September

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. businesses added 213,000 jobs in September, stepping up hiring for the sixth straight month, according to a private survey. Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that the pace of hiring by private employers was up slightly from 202,000 in August. Job gains above 200,000 are usually enough to lower the unemployment rate.

The figures suggest the government's jobs report on Friday could reveal a rebound in hiring. The government said employers added only 142,000 jobs in August. But the ADP numbers cover only private businesses and sometimes diverge from the government's more comprehensive report. ADP's August figure was much higher than the government's.

Economists surveyed by FactSet forecast that the government's report will show 215,000 jobs were added in September, while the unemployment rate remained 6.1 percent.

The ADP "data add to the evidence that the trend in employment growth remains solid, at least 200,000 per month," said Jim O'Sullivan, an economist at High Frequency Economics. Other recent job market measures also point to strong hiring. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits remains near seven-year lows, evidence that companies are cutting few workers.

Americans are more confident in the economy and are spending more. Consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, increased in August at the fastest pace in six months.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which helps compile the report, described last month's hiring as broad-based across most industries and company sizes. Manufacturing firms added 35,000 jobs, more than double the gain in August. That was likely driven by strong hiring by auto companies, Zandi said. □



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Islamic State fighters overrun Kurdish village in Syria

KARAM SHOUMALI

ANNE BARNARD

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MERTISMAIL, Turkey

Islamic State militants swept into a Kurdish village in Syria on Wednesday just across the border from this Turkish hamlet, as farther south, in the central Syrian city of Homs, twin car bombs killed at least 45 people, including 41 children, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-government monitoring group. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombings. Video posted online showed people running and shrieking amid black smoke, and sidewalks littered with body parts, before a second explosion went off. The bombs struck near an elementary school in Akrama, an area that is home to many government supporters and has been targeted before by jihadist groups like the Nusra Front; militants from the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, have recently increased their presence in Homs province as well.

Meanwhile, the conflict continues across the country between Syrian insurgents, the Islamic State and the government, which has continued bombarding opposition-held areas. The Syrian Network for Human Rights said Wednesday that in the month of September alone, 2,375 people died in the conflict; of those, more than 1,700 were killed by government forces, among them 294 children.

On the Turkish border, Islamic State militants who have been using tanks and artillery in a 10-day onslaught on a Syrian Kurdish area of farming villages advanced to within 2 miles



Turkish Kurds watch the fighting between Islamic militants and Kurdish forces to the west of Kobani, Syria, at the Turkey-Syria border near Suruc, Turkey. Islamic State militants swept into a Kurdish village in Syria on Wednesday just across the border from this Turkish hamlet.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

of the area's main town, Kobani, also known as Ayn al-Arab.

At least 50 fighters, carrying the black flags of the Islamic State, reached the vil-

lage of Kazikan on Tuesday, where numerous Kurdish men had camped against the border fence with their cars and livestock, hoping that the nearby presence

of Turkish soldiers would protect them.

The Kurdish men squeezed through the fence and remained on the other side, watching Islamic State

fighters arriving one by one, on foot or on motor-cycles, and driving away with the Kurds' cars. The men pleaded with Turkish soldiers to help, but the soldiers shouted at them and made them leave the area.

"I worked as a laborer for 30 years before I was able to pay \$15,000 for my Mitsubishi," said Omar Ham-mao, 45, after watching his car get stolen. "Delivering goods was my way to feed my family on a daily basis. I think that the coalition airstrikes might be able to push ISIS away, but I don't think they will be able to give me back my car, or the life I had."

The U.S.-led coalition has carried out several airstrikes in the area against the Islamic State group, but Kurdish fighters have pleaded for more aid as they struggle to hold off the assault. □

Ukraine rebels close in on Donetsk airport

DARKO VOJINOVIC

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)

Pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine advanced Wednesday on the government-held airport in Donetsk, pressing to seize the key transportation hub even as the two sides bargained over a troop pull-out under a much-violated truce.

Fighting for the airport has raged for months as the insurgents have tried to dislodge the government forces using it to shell rebel positions in Donetsk, the largest rebel-held city. At least nine people were killed in the crossfire Wednesday in residential areas near the airport.

Civilian and military casual-

ties have continued to rise in eastern Ukraine despite a cease-fire Sept. 5 and a second agreement Sept. 20 that spelled out how to create a buffer zone. While that helped to enforce the cease-fire in areas where Ukrainians troops and rebels chose to retreat, non-stop fighting has continued at the airport and other strategic locations.

While the Donetsk airport building has been gutted by shelling, its long runway would let the rebels handle heavy cargo planes carrying supplies, instead of relying solely on truck convoys from Russia.

While it was impossible to get close to the airport Wednesday because of the fighting, an AP reporter

in Donetsk saw that artillery fire hitting the airport was coming from government-held positions outside the city — an indication that Kiev may no longer hold the airport.

But Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council spokesman, Col. Andriy Ly-senko, told journalists in Kiev the airport was still under the control of government troops who were "brilliantly carrying out their duty."

Rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko, however, was quoted by the Inter-fax news agency as saying the rebels now control 90 percent of the airport. "In two — or maximum three — days, the Donetsk airport will come under our control," he said.

The increasingly violent battle has pounded Donetsk's northern neighborhoods in a conflict that has claimed at least 3,500 lives since April, a month after Russia annexed Crimea.

One shell exploded Wednesday in a school courtyard in northern Donetsk and an AP reporter saw bodies of three people killed by it. Shortly afterward, another shell hit a nearby bus stop, killing three people seen by the AP. A minibus that was also hit was still burning hours later.

The Donetsk city council said three people were killed at the school — a teacher and two parents — and 70 schoolchildren were there at the time. □

UK leader Cameron promises tax cuts, EU battle

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Squeezed between insurgent anti-Europeans, a skittish party and suspicious voters, Britain's prime minister promised a tough stance on the EU and tax cuts for millions in a bid to bolster support for his Conservative Party before a national election next year.

David Cameron closed the Conservatives' fall conference in the central English city of Birmingham Wednesday by arguing that four years of austerity under his government had restored Britain to economic health after the Great Recession.

He said that if re-elected he would reduce income taxes for middle-income

earners and eliminate them for minimum-wage workers. At the same time, he said, his government would continue to cut public spending, trimming 25 billion pounds (\$40 billion) in the two years after the election.

"We want to cut more of your taxes, but we can only do that if we keep on cutting the deficit," Cam-

eron said. "This is common sense."

Polls suggest Cameron's Conservatives trail the Labour opposition before the election in May, though many voters see Cameron as a stronger leader than Labour's Ed Miliband.

The Conservatives have also lost supporters — and two lawmakers — to the populist U.K. Indepen-

dence Party, which wants Britain to leave the European Union.

In a bid to defuse the UKIP challenge, Cameron vowed to wrest powers back from the EU before holding a national referendum on whether to quit the 28-nation bloc.

"I will go to Brussels. I will not take no for an answer," Cameron said. □

East Jerusalem construction plan moves ahead

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — City officials said Wednesday that they have granted final approval for the construction of a controversial new Israeli housing development in east Jerusalem, dealing a new blow to already tattered relations with the Palestinians and raising the likelihood of a fresh round of international condemnations.

The announcement was circulated by an anti-settlement watchdog group as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was meeting President Barack Obama at the White House, though officials said the decision was taken two weeks ago. The U.S. has repeatedly criticized Israeli construction in east Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem municipality said in a statement that Deputy Mayor Kobi Kahlon had approved the construction of some 2,500 homes in Givat Hamatos, a development that would complete a band of Jewish housing in east Jerusalem and present another

obstacle to the Palestinian goal of establishing a capital in the area.

A Jerusalem municipal official described the move as technical, saying the signature merely formal-

begin construction.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said Kahlon had signed the order two weeks ago, and

appeared in a small local newspaper a week ago and was circulated by the anti-settlement watchdog Peace Now on Wednesday.

The official said it was not

in planning settlement construction, accused Peace Now of timing its announcement to sabotage the White House meeting. Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mid-east war and annexed the area as part of its capital, a move that is not internationally recognized. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as their future capital, and the international community, including the U.S., considers Israeli neighborhoods in the eastern sector to be settlements.

Some 200,000 Israelis live in east Jerusalem. Because of Israel's construction of a half-ring of Jewish enclaves, only a few land corridors are left between core Arab neighborhoods and the West Bank. Givat Hamatos would cut one of the key remaining links — severing Beit Safafa from the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

The Jerusalem official noted that the new plan is also meant to provide housing for Arabs, with roughly one third of the apartments slated to expand Beit Safafa. □



A general view of Givat Hamatos area is seen in east Jerusalem. Jerusalem officials said Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, that they have granted final approval for construction of a controversial new housing development in east Jerusalem, dealing a new blow to already tattered relations with the Palestinians and raising the likelihood of international condemnations.

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

ized a project that was approved three years ago. But he also acknowledged the step was the "final approval" needed before tenders can be issued to

the timing had no connection to the current tensions with the Palestinians or Netanyahu's meeting with Obama. The municipality statement

clear when tenders would be issued or when construction would begin.

Ariel Rosenberg, a spokesman for Israel's Housing Ministry, which is involved

France's Socialists detail hefty spending cuts

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's Socialist government has detailed a 21 billion-euro (\$26.5 billion) cost-cutting plan, the biggest in the country's modern history, saying it will focus on trimming welfare benefits. Presenting the 2015 budget on Wednesday, Finance Minister Michel Sapin said the measures show the government is serious

about reining in its budget deficit, which is above European Union limits.

"These spending cuts are crucial to our credibility in the eyes of the French and Europeans. They'll be fully applied," he said.

Sapin insisted, however, that they are not austerity measures as they will be accompanied by tax cuts as well.

The government hopes the reforms will assuage EU au-

thorities irked by France's decision to let its budget deficit reach 4.4 percent of gross domestic product this year — far above the 3 percent demanded by the EU. A significant part of the savings is to be made in France's generous welfare system. The government will cut social security spending by 9.5 billion euros, including 3.2 billion euros from health spending, and 700 million euros from

family benefits.

These measures prompted harsh criticism — especially among leftist voters — in a country that prizes its public services.

The government says it will reduce income taxes for 6 million families next year, for a total amount of 3.2 billion euros.

The 2015 budget also plans to diminish the number of state employees next year and limit wage increases.

At the same time, the government vows to reduce tax burden on employers in hopes of encouraging hiring.

"In the context of low growth and low inflation... the government is now forced to make spending cuts measures, instead of simply freeze the spending as it used to do," said Antoine Bozio, economist and director of the Institute of public policies. □

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Rousseff takes a lead in new Brazil election poll

A. GOMEZ LICON
 BRAD BROOKS
 Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff climbed in two election polls released this week - opening a solid runoff vote lead in one but remaining in a technical tie with her chief rival in another.

A survey carried out by the Datafolha polling group and published on the website of the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper showed Rousseff winning 49 percent support from those polled, while Silva held 41 percent in a possible second-round vote.

A month ago Silva led Rousseff 50-to-40 in a Datafolha poll.

A separate poll conducted by the Ibope Institute and published on the website of the Estado de S. Paulo newspaper indicated a tighter second-round race, with Rousseff taking 42 percent and Silva 38 percent in the second round, putting them in a technical tie taking the margin of error into consideration.

Brazilians will cast their ballots on Sunday. If no single candidate wins an outright majority, a runoff between the top two vote winners will be held on Oct. 26.

"Dilma's negative campaigning has been very effective, it's dehydrated and debilitated Marina," said Carlos Pereira, a political analyst at the Getulio Vargas Foundation think tank. "It was very hard on Marina and has left her vulnerable."

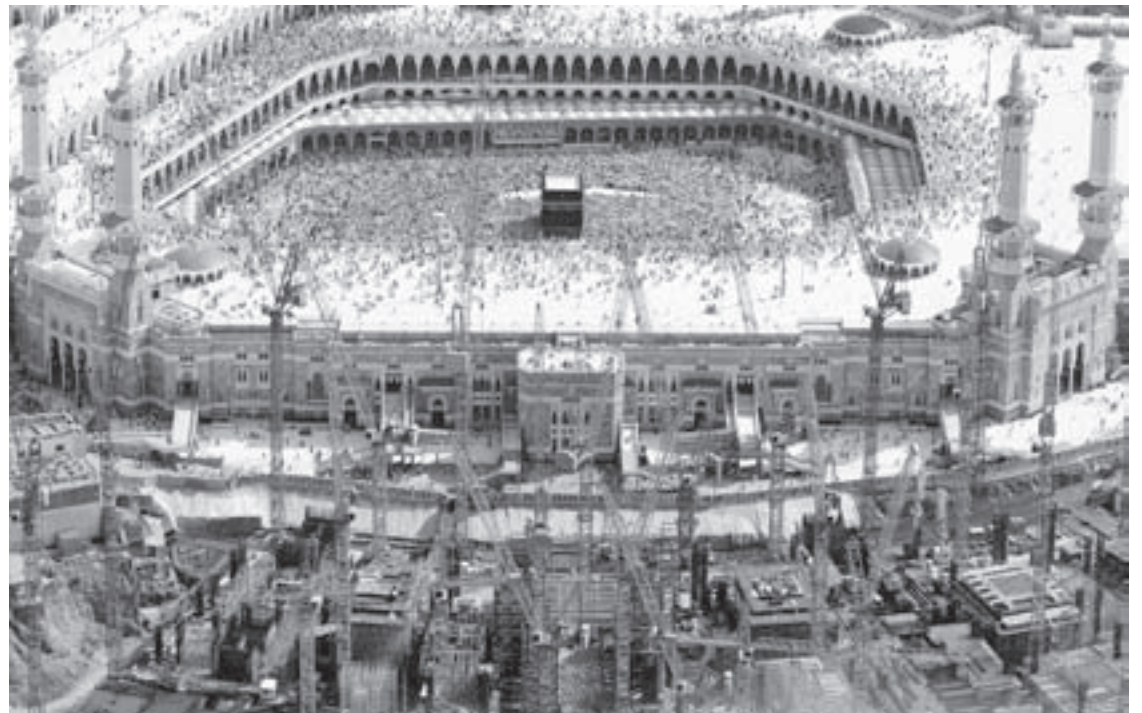
Rousseff has aggressively gone after Silva's record as a senator, questioned her changing political parties three times in the past five years and said she simply doesn't have the mettle needed to lead the world's seventh-biggest economy.

She's also said Silva, a former environmental minister, would slow Brazil's drive to drill for massive offshore oil deposits that could hold upward of 100 billion barrels and railed against Silva's plan to give complete independence to the Central Bank.

Silva sought to dismiss some of Rousseff's "lies" and explain why her economic ideas such as Central Bank independence would jump start an economy that's in recession. But by Brazilian campaign laws a candidate's ad time on television and radio is based upon their coalition's representation in congress, and Rousseff has five times the amount as Silva each day, giving the president the ability to drown out her rival.

That changes in the second round, when the two remaining candidates will have equal air time for the three weeks leading up to a second-round vote.

Rousseff's governing Workers Party is also far bigger and better organized than Silva's Socialist Party — and has held the presidency for nearly 12 years, during which time millions of Brazilians were pulled from poverty into the middle class, solidifying their support base. In polling on the first-round vote, Rousseff maintained her wide lead over Silva, taking 40 percent versus Silva's 25 percent in the Datafolha poll, and held a nearly identical 39-25 lead in the Ibope poll. □



This aerial image made from a helicopter shows Muslim pilgrims moving around the Kaaba, the black cube seen at center, inside the Grand Mosque, during the annual Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. As Muslims from around the world stream into Mecca for the annual hajj pilgrimage this week, they come to a city undergoing the biggest transformation in its history.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Islam's holiest city:

Saudi overhaul reshaping Mecca

AYA BATRAWY
 Associated Press
 MECCA, Saudi Arabia

(AP) — As a child, Osama al-Bar would walk from his home past Islam's holiest site, the Kaaba, to the market of spice and fabric merchants where his father owned a store. At that time, Mecca was so small, pilgrims could sit at the cube-shaped Kaaba and look out at the serene desert mountains where the Prophet Muhammad once walked.

Now the market and the homes are gone. Monumental luxury hotel towers crowd around the Grand Mosque where the Kaaba is located, dwarfing it. Steep rocky hills overlooking the mosque have been leveled and are now covered with cranes building more towers in row after row.

"My father and all the people who lived in Mecca wouldn't recognize it," said al-Bar, who is now Mecca's mayor.

As Muslims from around the world stream into Mecca for the annual hajj pilgrimage this week, they come to a city undergoing the biggest transformation in its history.

Decades ago, this was a low-built city of centuries-old neighborhoods. Over the years, it saw piecemeal renewal projects. But in the mid-2000s, the kingdom launched its most ambitious overhaul ever with a series of mega-projects that, though incomplete, have already reshaped Mecca.

Old neighborhoods have been erased for hotel towers and malls built right up to the edge of the Grand Mosque. Historic sites significant for Islam have been demolished. Next to the Kaaba soars the world's third tallest skyscraper, topped by a gigantic clock, which is splashed with colored lights at night. "It's not Mecca. It's Mecca-hattan. This tower and the lights in it are like Ve-

gas," said Sami Angawi, an architect who spent his life studying hajj and is one of the most outspoken critics of the changes. "The truth of the history of Mecca is wiped out ... with bulldozers and dynamite. Is this development?"

Critics complain the result is stripping the holy city of its spirituality. They also say it is robbing the hajj of its more than 1,400-year-old message that all Muslims, rich or poor, are equal before God as they perform the rites meant to cleanse them of sin, starting and ending by circling the Kaaba seven times.

Mecca is revered by hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide. They face the Kaaba every day in their prayers. The Grand Mosque is one of the few places in the world where Muslims of all stripes gather — Sunnis and Shiites, secular Muslims, mystics and hard-liners.

Continued on Page 27

Pot decriminalization bill drafted in Jamaica

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaica's justice minister said Tuesday that legislation has been drafted to decriminalize marijuana on the Caribbean island where the drug has been pervasive but prohibited for a century.

Mark Golding told reporters that lawmakers should make possession of 2 ounces or less a petty offense before the end of 2014. He also expects decriminalization for religious purposes to be authorized by then, allowing adherents of the homegrown Rastafarian spiritual movement to ritually smoke marijuana, which they consider a "holy herb," without fear of arrest. Golding said it will take longer to agree on more complex changes to Jamaica's Dangerous Drugs Act needed to spur a medical marijuana and cannabis research sector. He said Jamaica, where scientists developed a cannabis-de-

rived medication to treat glaucoma decades ago, is "well-positioned to be a forerunner" in efforts to research therapeutic uses of the plant.

As Jamaica advances marijuana decriminalization,

the government is committed to battling drug traffickers, Golding stressed. He said keeping marijuana away from children, the international black market and organized crime will be a top priority.



Legalization advocate and reggae legend Bunny Wailer smokes a pipe stuffed with marijuana during a "reasoning" session in a yard in Kingston, Jamaica, decorated with Rastafarian colors and images of former Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie. Wailer, a founder of the iconic Wailers reggae group with late superstars Bob Marley and Peter Tosh, and fellow Rastafarians have long called for legalization of the drug that they smoke as part of their spiritual worship. Now, many Rastas are welcoming plans by the Jamaican government to decriminalize marijuana for religious purposes, among other proposed amendments to the island's drug laws.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

Previous efforts to decriminalize marijuana, or "ganja" as it is largely known in Jamaica, failed to advance because Jamaican officials feared they would violate international treaties and bring sanctions from Washington. But those concerns have eased now that a number of nations and some U.S. states have relaxed marijuana laws. Golding said the regulatory framework needed for a medical marijuana and research industry in Jamaica is still being hashed over. Setting maximum limits on pot cultivation is not anticipated, he said, but the government wants to ensure that small farmers "are not excluded and it does not just become something exclusively for major capital-intensive investors." Ethan Nadelmann, head of the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, a pro-legalization group based in New York, called Golding's announcement a "significant step forward."

Crowds mark 1991 coup anniversary in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A large crowd of supporters of former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide marched this week through the capital on the anniversary of a 1991 military coup that ousted the country's first democratically elected leader. Thousands of supporters tried to march from the church where Aristide led services as a Catholic priest to his house. But police fired water cannons and tear gas to disperse them before they arrived at the home. The march marked the date that the military ousted Aristide less than a year into his first term as president. It comes amid fears he will be arrested for failing to heed a court summons to testify in a corruption case.

An investigative judge issued an arrest warrant in August after the former president did not attend a hearing looking into allegations that include money laundering during his time in office. Aristide's lawyer

has said the summons was not properly served and he has sought to quash the warrant. Haitian police have been

stationed outside the walls of Aristide's home but so far have not moved to carry out the warrant. The former president, who

was ousted again in a violent rebellion in 2004, has rarely ventured outside his home since returning from exile in South Africa in 2011.



A supporter of former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide walks over burning wood as part of a voodoo ceremony before the start of a protest on the anniversary of the 1991 military coup that ousted Aristide, the country's first democratically elected leader, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The march marked the date that the military ousted Aristide less than a year into his first term as president. It also comes amid fears he will be arrested for failing to heed a court summons to testify in a corruption case.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

US finds \$2M leaving Puerto Rico by truck

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A truck driver attempting to leave Puerto Rico by ferry for the Dominican Republic has been detained with more than \$2 million in cash. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents detained the man and confiscated the cash as he was attempting to board the Caribbean Fantasy in San Juan. The agency says 22 bundles of cash were hidden in compartments inside the truck and was found Monday. Agents conduct regular checks of passengers seeking to board the ferry that crosses between the two countries, largely focusing on weapons and cash linked to the drug trade. Spokesman Jeffrey Quinones said Tuesday that the man has been charged in a sealed indictment. He said details about the man are not being revealed because the case remains under investigation.

Guard seizes cocaine cache in Dominican

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The U.S. Coast Guard says it has seized a haul of cocaine and captured two smugglers in waters south of the Dominican Republic. In a Tuesday statement, the Coast Guard said the crew of the 210-foot (64-meter) cutter Decisive intercepted a go-fast boat with two outboard engines. The crew went after the boat late Friday after a Canadian maritime patrol aircraft detected the vessel speeding toward the Dominican Republic. When crew searched the speedboat they allegedly found 317 pounds (143 kilograms) of cocaine in six bales. The two suspects on board were later transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Puerto Rico.



Inspired By Aruba's Local Ambience: Marriott Aruba Surf Club Unveils Its New Look

ing and relaxation found only in Aruba", shared Mrs. Maragh.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, located on coveted Palm Beach, boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest

exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1-800-228-9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindsclubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow us on Twitter @ ArubaMarriott. □

PALM BEACH - The Marriott Aruba Surf Club Lighthouse building recently initiated a complete renovation of \$12.9 million after receiving a soft renovation in 2009. A local theme inspired by the turquoise waters and vibrant colors of Aruba was used as new design for the renovation. The design

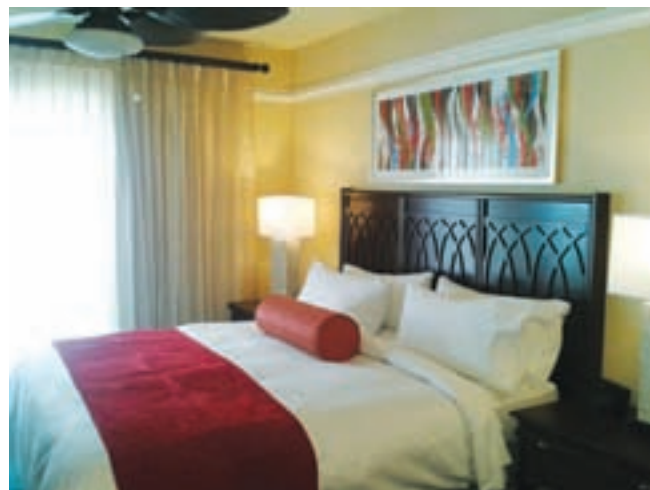
cabinets, balcony furniture, blu-ray DVDs and local themed artwork to mention a few. The project initiated on September 6th, 2014 and is set to be completed by October 31st, 2014, a total duration of 8 weeks.

The Maragh Family was welcomed by the Director



captures the true Caribbean spirit and features Aruba's renowned landmarks and beautiful sceneries translated into a tranquil yet sophisticated ambience. The guest rooms are being completely re-furnished with new furniture, stainless steel appliances, kitchen and bathroom

of Operations, Mr. Pedro Vargas, and was the first guests to experience the newly renovated rooms. "The rooms are beautiful and the new furniture is really nice. What we love the most about the new look is the color scheme that was chosen carefully to bring out the Caribbean feel-



Welcomed by Pink Flamingos and Giant Iguanas; Finland Honeymooners Laura & Henri Love Aruba!



ORANJESTAD - Laura & Henri Raikamo celebrated their marriage with a romantic honeymoon at the Aruba Renaissance Resort. They enjoyed all of the wonderful things that Aruba has to offer including an exciting boat trip to the Renaissance's Private Island. Laura & Henri were welcomed by several dozen large iguanas and a flock of pink flamingos. The Raikamo's traveled all the way from Espoo, Finland to celebrate their love.

The travelers actually met on a vacation cruise 8 years ago and Laura says "it wasn't love at first sight,

but destiny by many different actions brought us together and 4 months later we started dating."

The blue-eyed blondes were married on July 26, 2014 and choose Aruba as the Honeymoon Destination because Henri had visited Aruba with his family about 15 years ago. "In the start of our relationship he had already traveled all over the world and said that the coolest places on earth were Aruba and Dubai and those two places are the only ones where he will ever go again.

So I had two places to choose from for our hon-

eymoon. Later I found out it was a joke, but I had decided that Aruba is the place to go and about 6-7 years later of that incident here we are," Laura an-

nounced. "We love it here! Beautiful places to discover, the nicest people, relaxing atmosphere... Couldn't be better and we are absolutely coming back to Aruba! No

question about that," they both exclaimed.

Bella Aruba Photography captured their magical moments that Laura & Henri will cherish for a lifetime. □



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Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates a point won over Vasek Pospisil of Canada during the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Associated Press

Novak Djokovic extends China Open winning streak to 21

JUSTIN BERGMAN
Associated Press

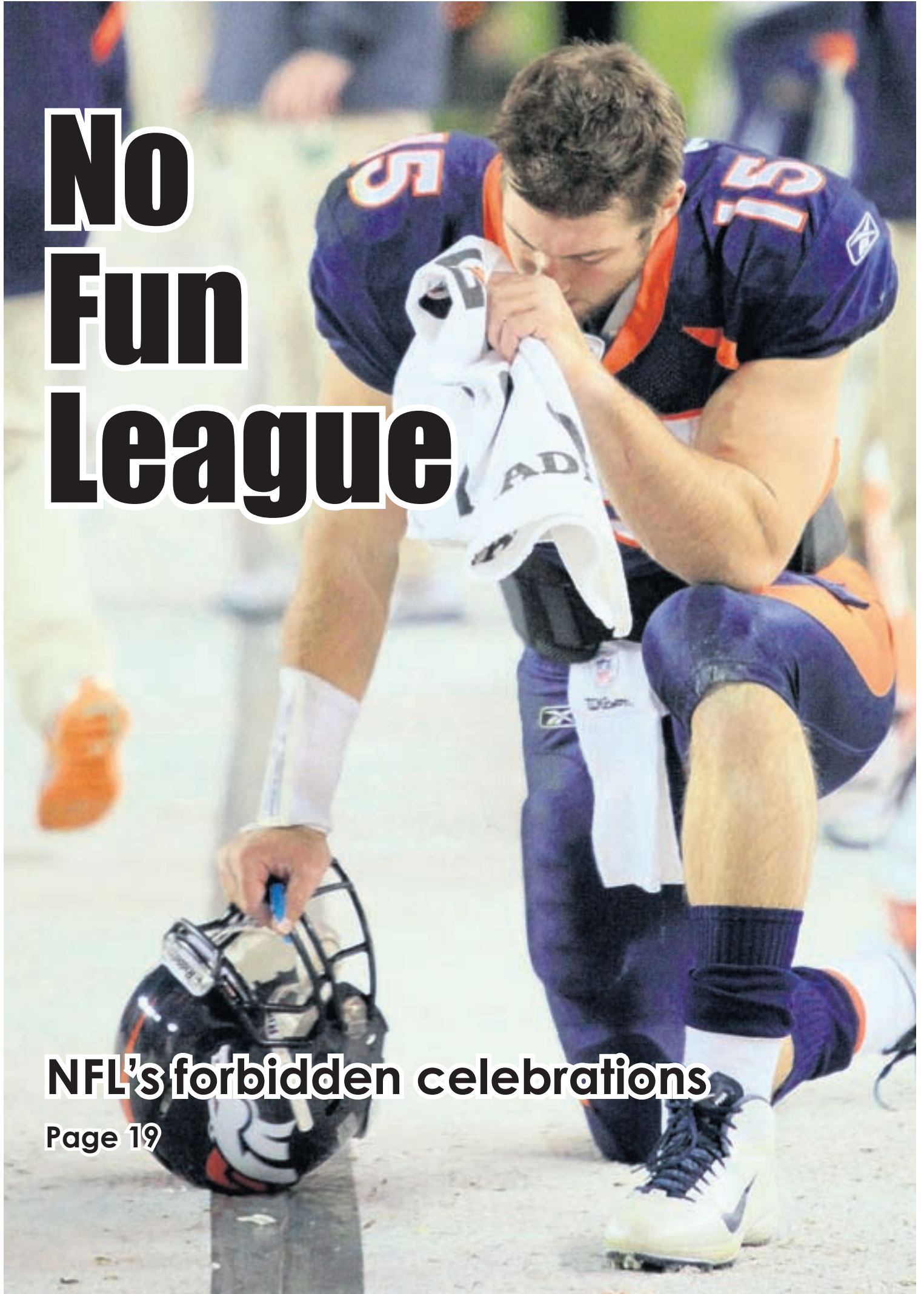
BEIJING (AP) — Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak at the China Open to 21 straight matches, beating Canada's Vasek Pospisil 6-3, 7-5 under the roof on center court on a cold, rainy Wednesday. The top-ranked Djokovic came back from a break down in the second set and fought off a set point at 4-5 to close out the match in straight sets. He has lost only three sets en route to winning four China Open titles in four years. Djokovic faces a tough road to pick up a fifth straight title, with a potential quarterfinal against No. 5-seeded Grigor Dimitrov and possible semifinal against U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic or Andy Murray. He could meet No. 2 Rafael Nadal in the final. Although his wife, Jelena Ristic, is preparing to give birth to their first child in about a month, Djokovic said he remains focused on his goal of finishing No. 1 for the third time in the last four years.

Continued on Page 18

No Fun League

NFL's forbidden celebrations

Page 19



In this Nov. 17, 2011, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow (15) bows his head on the sidelines after scoring a touchdown against the New York Jets in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Denver. Associated Press

China Open

Continued from Page 17

He has a healthy lead over Nadal and No. 3 Roger Federer in the rankings, but he's still planning to play a full tournament schedule as the season winds down, including the ATP Tour Finals in London in November.

"It's definitely always the highest priority out there with winning Grand Slams," Djokovic said. "That gives me plenty of motivation. It would mean, of course, a lot to me. That's why I'm out here in Beijing and (next week in) Shanghai, competing and trying to get that year-end No. 1."

In women's play, Petra Kvitová defeated Peng Shuai of China 6-4, 6-2 to set up a third-round match with Venus Williams in a reprise of their three-set encounter at Wimbledon.

Williams advanced on Tuesday with a win over France's Caroline Garcia. In June, Kvitová was two points from defeat in a third-round Wimbledon

match against Williams, but came back to prevail 5-7, 7-6 (2), 7-5 and ride that momentum all the way to her second title at the All England Club.

"Every match (I have) played with Venus was a really great fight until the end," Kvitová said. "It's the third round in the tournament. It's very early to meet each other again, same as Wimbledon."

Kvitová leads their head-to-head series 4-1, but each match has gone three sets. Both players are on a roll, with Kvitová coming off a title at the Wuhan Open last week that qualified her for the WTA Finals in Singapore, and Williams reaching two finals in Canada this summer.

"I feel well on the court," Kvitová said. "My confidence is a little bit higher than after the U.S. Open." French Open champion Maria Sharapova was the first player into the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 7-6 (3) win over Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

The fourth seed was broken



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot against Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain during the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014.

Associated Press

while serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set, but recovered to take the last five points of the tiebreaker and match.

No. 6-seeded Caroline

Wozniacki was upset by former U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur, 6-4, 7-6 (9).

Wozniacki, who is having a resurgent season and

had won 25 of her last 31 matches, wasted five set points and double-faulted three times in the second-set tiebreaker, including on match point. □

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NFL has laundry list of verboten celebrations

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

Dancing Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, shuffling Ickey Woods and the high-fiving Fun Bunch? Their entertaining touchdown celebrations would be illegal in today's NFL.

Though the league rulebook has some very specific examples of what constitutes a penalty, the grey area is as wide as ever.

Take, for example, Husain Abdullah's drop to his knees after returning an interception for a touchdown on Monday. It confused the referees — and caused them to throw a penalty flag. In their eyes, the Kansas City Chiefs defensive back violated the language in Rule 12, Section 3(d) that states "Players are prohibited from engaging in any celebrations while on the ground."

But Abdullah is a devout Muslim, who had always vowed he'd fall to his knees if he ever reached the end zone. Critics pointed out that many players have knelt in Christian player and weren't penalized, most notably Tim Tebow, who's one-knee genuflection became a meme. After further review, the NFL said since it was part of a religious expression, Abdullah should not have been flagged.

Highlights from the NFL's forbidden list, who may

have caused it, and who might get nailed today.

—PROLONGED, CHOREOGRAPHED, EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION: It could be said that the "Fun Bunch" — aka Art Monk, Alvin Garrett and the rest of the Washington Redskins receivers in the early 1980s — took the fun out of the NFL. After touchdowns, they would form a circle and time a group high-five. In a 1983 game at Texas Stadium, Cowboys defenders tried to break up a Fun Bunch celebration by standing in the middle of it. A year later, the league passed a rule banning "excessive celebration." Just last week, Antonio Brown of the Pittsburgh Steelers broke this rule, and about three others, when he spun the ball on the ground, pretended he was spinning like the ball, then fell to the ground. He was penalized 15 yards and a scolding from coach Mike Tomlin. Victor Cruz of the New York Giants says he's planning a new Salsa dance to celebrate touchdowns.

—USE OF FOREIGN OBJECTS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE UNIFORM: Would the white shoes Johnson wore when he was returning kicks for the Houston Oilers back in the day have qualified as "foreign objects?" Who knows? But give these guys an A for creativity and advance planning: Terrell Owens pulling a Sharpie pen

out of his sock and signing a ball after scoring. And New Orleans Saints receiver Joe Horn reaching the end zone, then pulling a cellphone out of the padding on the goalpost and pretending to make a call. **—SACK DANCES, HOME-RUN SWING, INCREDIBLE HULK:** All are verboten if "committed directly at an opponent." Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets had one of the first (and possibly the worst) sack dance.

It sparked a bench-clearing brawl in 1983 with the Los Angeles Rams and their Hall of Fame offensive lineman Jackie Slater, who said: "One lousy tackle and he puts on a big act. Why don't I dance every time I block him out?" Also forbidden under this category are home-run swings (Neil Smith), Incredible Hulk gestures (Clay Matthews used to do it).

More recently, Packers running back Eddie Lacy cleverly bypassed this by wearing an Incredible Hulk shirt under his jersey) and military salutes (could've potentially put Terrell Davis and the Denver Broncos famous Mile High Salute of the late 1990s in jeopardy).

—THROAT SLASH, STOMPING ON TEAM LOGOS: Fred Taylor of the Jacksonville Jaguars was tagged a few times for a throat-slash gesture that was popular, especially in college football, about 10 years ago.



In this photo taken on Monday, Sept. 29, 2014, Kansas City Chiefs free safety Husain Abdullah (39) bows his head in prayer after intercepting a pass from New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12), seated on field at left, and returning it for a touchdown during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo. Abdullah was penalized on the play. The NFL said Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014, that Abdullah should not have been penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct when he dropped to his knees in prayer after an interception.

Associated Press



In this Sept. 22, 2002, file photo, New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan celebrates after sacking Seattle Seahawks quarterback Trent Dilfer during an NFL football game at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

NFL extends 'Sunday Ticket' deal with DirecTV

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL has extended its contract with satellite provider DirecTV to carry the "Sunday Ticket" package, which allows viewers to watch out-of-market games.

The deal expands DirecTV's rights to stream the package live on mobile devices and online. The agreement is worth \$12 billion over eight years — \$1.5 billion annually, according to a person familiar with the contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the figures were not made

public. The previous deal was worth about \$1 billion a year.

AT&T is in the process of acquiring DirecTV for \$48.5 billion, making the expanded possibilities for mobile particularly attractive.

Wednesday's announcement shows the lasting popularity of the NFL even as the league has endured weeks of turmoil over its handling of domestic violence cases. Its typically huge TV ratings have remained steady so far this season.

This was the last big renewal for the NFL's TV packages. In 2011, the league ex-



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks during a news conference Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

tended its deals with CBS, Fox and NBC for nine years through the 2022 season.

That increased the total revenues from those three networks from the \$1.93 bil-

lion per year at the time to \$3.1 billion by the end of the contracts.

A few months earlier, the NFL and ESPN had reached an eight-year extension to keep "Monday Night Football" on the cable channel through the 2021 season, increasing the rights fee from \$1.1 to 1.9 billion annually.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a release Wednesday that DirecTV and the "NFL Sunday Ticket" package "have served our fans well for 20 years and continue to complement our broadcast television packages."

Royals beat A's 9-8 in 12 in AL wild-card thriller

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— The Kansas City Royals had waited 29 years to reach Major League's playoffs and they fought hard to stay there on Tuesday, edging the Oakland Athletics 9-8 in a 12-inning postseason classic.

Salvador Perez singled down the left-field line with two outs in the 12th inning, allowing Christian Colon to score from second base and giving the long-suffering Royals victory in the American League wild-card game.

Kansas City progresses to a best-of-five AL division series against the Los Angeles Angels, starting in California on Thursday.

The A's raced out to a 7-3 lead by the sixth inning, but the Royals countered with three runs in the eighth. Nori Aoki's sacrifice fly off Sean Doolittle in the ninth tied the game and forced extra innings.

Oakland went back ahead 8-7 in the top of the 12th but the Royals managed to respond.

In the bottom of the 12th, Eric Hosmer was the first batter up and hit a rocket to the wall in left field off Dan Otero for a triple. Colon followed with an infield chopper that gave him



Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez hits a walk-off single to drive in Christian Colon with the winning run in the 12th inning, giving the Royals a 9-8 win over the Oakland Athletics in the AL wild-card playoff baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.

enough time to scramble to first base and Hosmer to make it to home plate for the tying run.

That set the stage for Perez, who lined a pitch from Jason Hammel just inside the third-base line to bring home Colon and end the game.

"This will go down as the craziest game I've ever played," said Hosmer. "This team showed a lot of character. No one believed in us before the game. No one believed in us before

the season."

The Royals players poured out of their dugout in a justifiably mad celebration. The long-suffering franchise hadn't played in the postseason since winning the 1985 World Series.

For Oakland, it was one final collapse in a season full of them. The club that once had the best record of any team in the early months of the season wilted over the second half of the campaign, and needed a victory on the final day of

the regular season just to squeeze into the playoffs. They had chances to put all that in the past. Instead, it will be dragged up for years.

Still, even Moss — who would have been the two-homer hero had the A's hung on — could appreciate the quality of the contest.

"They finally got ahead there in the 30th inning or whatever it was," said Moss. "That was definitely the best baseball game

I've ever been a part of."

A much-anticipated pitching showdown between Oakland ace Jon Lester and Kansas City counterpart James Shields instead turned into a high-scoring game and a battle of attrition between their bullpens.

Brandon Moss helped the A's strike first, belting a two-run homer in the first inning and a three-run shot in the fifth.

Oakland had what seemed a winning lead after the fifth and Lester — long a thorn in the side of Kansas City — had started to hit his stride. But A's manager Bob Melvin opted to send him out for the eighth inning, and the game turned.

The Royals countered by playing small ball, stealing seven bases to tie a postseason record previously shared by the 1907 Chicago Cubs and 1975 Cincinnati Reds, according to STATS.

Luke Gregerson replaced Lester but failed to provide much and the A's four-run lead had been whittled to one.

A's closer Doolittle tried to finish the game off in the ninth, but he served up a leadoff single to Josh Willingham. □



San Diego Padres manager Bud Black, right, talks to his players on the mound during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in San Francisco, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Teams will be limited to three trips to the mound by managers, coaches and catchers during a game, except for pitching changes, under experimental speedup

rules to be used during the Arizona Fall League.

The pace of game committee established last month by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced a series of initiatives Wednesday

Trips to mound limited in Arizona experiment

day that will be tried in the AFL, which opens Oct. 7 and runs until Nov. 15. The three-trip limit will apply even if a game goes to extra innings.

The average time of nine-inning games in the major leagues was a record 3 hours, 2 minutes this year, up from 2:33 in 1981.

Pitches will be eliminated during intentional walks, and a hitter will be required to keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout each at-bat, unless there is a foul ball, wild pitch or passed ball — or if a pitch forces him out or the umpire grants "time."

In games at Salt River Fields, a 20-second clock will be posted in each dugout, behind home plate and in the outfield to prevent pitchers from taking too much time. If a batter steps out of the box during the 20-second period that ends with the start of the pitching motion, the pitcher can throw. The umpire may call a strike if the batter has not been granted time. The clock will start when the pitcher has the ball or, after a foul, when the umpire signals "play."

Normally, rule 8.04 says a pitcher should pitch within 12 seconds of receiving the

ball when the bases are empty, and umpires may call a ball for a violation. But that rule is rarely enforced.

Hitters will be directed to get in the batter's box by the 1:45 mark of the 2:05 break between innings, and violations may be punished by strike calls. The maximum time for a pitching change will be 2:30, including changes before the start of an inning.

In addition, the MLB video review system that started this year will be in use and will include experimental rules regarding scope, initiation and time limits. □

USA's Wambach, players file lawsuit over World Cup turf

ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

American soccer star Abby Wambach and a group of elite international players filed a lawsuit in Canada on Wednesday challenging plans to play the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf.

Led by U.S. national team forward Wambach, the players filed the suit at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in Toronto, attorney Hampton Dellinger told The Associated Press.

The women claim that playing the sport's premier tournament on fake grass amounts to gender discrimination under Canadian law. Their male counterparts have always played the World Cup on natural grass surfaces and will for the foreseeable future.

The players say there is a greater risk of injury on turf, and the artificial surface impacts both how the game is played and how the ball moves.

Among the athletes joining Wambach are U.S. teammate Alex Morgan, Germany's Nadine Angerer, Brazil's Fabiana Da Silva Simoes and Spain's Veronica Boquete.

"The gifted athletes we represent are determined not to have the sport they love be belittled on their watch," Dellinger said in a statement. "Getting an

equal playing field at the World Cup is a fight female players should not have to wage but one from which they do not shrink. In the end, we trust that fairness and equality will prevail over sexism and stubbornness."

On Tuesday, a FIFA official visiting Canada ahead of the tournament next year said there were no plans to reconsider using artificial turf.

"We play on artificial turf and there's no Plan B," said Tatjana Haenni, FIFA's head of women's competitions.

FIFA has appointed an independent examiner to make sure the turf at the six venues meets its strict guidelines for top-tier tournaments. The consultant is traveling with a FIFA delegation currently inspecting the sites.

FIFA rules stipulate that matches can be played on artificial turf if special dispensation is granted, as it was in Canada's case. The regulations also state that all matches in a tournament must be played on the same surface.

Canada's bid for the event specified that the final match be played at Vancouver's BC Place, which seats 55,000 and has an artificial turf.

But many players, including Wambach, have been

voicing their objections since the bid was accepted. They sent a letter to FIFA and the CSA in July, saying they were prepared to take the legal action.

Since then, there has been growing support for the women on social media, with celebrities including actor Tom Hanks and NBA player Kobe Bryant joining the cause. Tim Howard, the goalkeeper for the U.S. men's team, also voiced his support on Twitter.

"There's so many different debates around this. But the reality is, the men would never play (the World Cup) on field turf," Wambach told the AP two weeks ago. "So for me, it's a women's rights issue, it's an equality issue."

The players have said they will not boycott the World Cup matches, which will be played in six Canadian cities.

Many players believe that FIFA and the Canadian federation could cover the six fields with sod. The real stuff was rolled onto the artificial surface at Michigan's Big House this summer for a match between Manchester United and Real Madrid.

It's not ideal, they say, but better than the alternative. "Is it going to cost them a little bit of money? Yeah. Maybe a drop in the buck-



In this Sept. 13, 2014, file photo United States' forward Abby Wambach (20) walks off the field following an international friendly game with Mexico, in Sandy, Utah. A group of elite players has filed a lawsuit in Canada challenging plans to play the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf.

Associated Press

et for FIFA for the amount of money that they have," U.S. player Megan Rapinoe said last month. "It just seems like they're kind of like, 'Oh, yeah, whatever, this is just what you're go-

ing to have.' When there's an alternative option, that's frustrating."

The legal action on Wednesday, known as an application, names the Canadian Soccer Association and FIFA. Attorneys filed a brief detailing the facts and law in support of the discrimination claim and also filed a motion to expedite the proceedings. The U.S. team will play this month in the championships for soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region, which serves as qualifying for the World Cup next year. The eight-team, round robin tournament opens for the Americans Oct. 15 in Kansas City, Kansas. The U.S. team also plays Oct. 17 in Bridgeview, Illinois, and Oct. 20 in Washington, D.C. The final will be held Oct. 26 at PPL Park in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Serena Williams headlines Hopman Cup field

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Top-ranked Serena Williams will combine with Wimbledon doubles champion Jack Sock in the United States team which will compete in a star-studded Hopman Cup tournament in January.

Williams won the Cup with James Blake in 2003 and Mardy Fish in 2008 and will again use the tournament as preparation for the first Grand Slam tournament of the season, the Australian Open.

Defending champion Jo-Wilfried Tsonga will combine with Alize Cornet in a French team playing in Group B with Australia, Great Britain and Poland. Two-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray will play for Britain alongside Heather Watson.

Canada's Eugenie Bouchard, rising Australian star Nick Kyrgios and world No.6 Agnieszka Radwanska are among other big names confirmed for the Jan. 4-10 event.



Serena Williams of the United States return a shots to Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain during the first round of China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

McIlroy wins PGA Tour player of the year

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — One incredible

month of golf was enough for Rory McIlroy to be voted PGA Tour player of the year. The award was announced on Wednesday and surprised no one. McIlroy won the award, which is a vote of PGA Tour members, for the second time in three years. He joined Tiger Woods, Greg Norman and Nick Price as the only multiple winners of the Jack Nicklaus Award since it began in 1990.

"I'd like to win a lot more in my career, and I feel like I can," McIlroy said from St. Andrews, where he is playing in the Dunhill Links Championship.

McIlroy and Jimmy Walker each won three times on the PGA Tour, though the size of the trophy tilted heavily in favor of the 25-year-old from Northern Ireland. McIlroy went wire-to-wire to win the British Open, rallied from three shots behind on the final day at Firestone to capture his first World Golf Championship, and won the PGA Championship with a sterling back nine at Valhalla. He became only the seventh player to win the final two majors of the year,



Europe's Rory McIlroy acknowledges the crowd on his way to the 3rd green during the singles match on the final day of the Ryder Cup golf tournament, at Gleneagles, Scotland, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

Associated Press

and the first since Pádraig Harrington in 2008.

Chesson Hadley of the U.S. was voted PGA Tour rookie of the year.

McIlroy failed to win on the European Tour or on the PGA Tour in 2013 during a turbulent year when he switched out all of his equipment, and would end up in a legal mess after leaving his management company.

He also struggled with a phenomenon that became known as "Freaky Friday" for taking himself out of tournaments with bad

second rounds. He solved that enigma and roared back to No. 1 in the world with a solid year that became spectacular with his two major titles.

McIlroy also led the PGA Tour with 12 finishes in the top 10, and he never finished worse than 25th. He also won the PGA Tour money title with just over \$8.2 million, and he won the Vardon Trophy for the lowest adjusted scoring average.

He won the award over Martin Kaymer, who won The Players Championship

and U.S. Open; Masters champion Bubba Watson; FedEx Cup champion Billy Horschel; and Walker.

The tour does not release vote totals.

"I guess it just makes me realize that even though last year wasn't the year I wanted, the last three or four years have been very, very good," McIlroy said. "It gives me even more motivation to go on and work harder and try to win more tournaments, more majors, and be involved in more Ryder Cups like last week." McIlroy contributed two

wins and two halves in Europe's 16 1/2-11 1/2 victory over the Americans last week at Gleneagles.

The PGA of America's award for player of the year is based on points, and effectively ended when McIlroy captured his second major. Just like two years ago, he is virtually certain to win the money title on both sides of the Atlantic, and sweep the significant awards in Europe.

"Being voted player of the year by your peers is something that's important," he said. "They are the guys that you play week in and week out, and the guys you are trying to beat week in and week out. And if they appreciate what you've done over the year, and see the hard work you've put in, and golf you've played, and think that's been the best of the season, that's something that means a lot to me."

Hadley won the Puerto Rico Open, which was held opposite a World Golf Championship at Doral. Among the three rookies on the ballot, he was the only player with a PGA Tour victory, and the only one to advance to the third round of the FedEx Cup playoffs. □



Adam Scott of Australia prepares to putt on the 2nd green with his caddie Steve Williams during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Wednesday July 16, 2014.

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand caddie Steve Williams says he plans to retire but will consider offers of part-time work next year and would team up with former boss

Tiger Woods, if asked.

Two weeks ago, Williams ended a 3-1/2 year association with Adam Scott during which Scott rose to become the world's top-ranked golfer and the first

Retiring Williams would consider Woods reunion

Australian to win the Masters. The 50-year-old Williams told Fairfax Media on Thursday he wants to reduce his caddying to spend more time with family in New Zealand.

He said he is "90 per cent certain it's going to be a permanent break from caddying" but he will consider working part-time in 2015.

Asked if he would be prepared to work with Woods again, Williams said "he's definitely someone I'd consider."

"He's a tremendous talent, but it's hard to say right

now because it's only two weeks since I've hung up the clubs," Williams said.

The 11-year professional and personal relationship between Williams and Woods ended in 2011 with some acrimony.

Williams said they had met occasionally on tour since, though Woods' recent injuries meant they had not seen each other often.

He said his move to scale down his caddying "wasn't a tough decision."

"At the end of the day, I've known in the back of my head that retirement or taking a break from cad-

dying was on the horizon. I've done it for 36 years," he said.

"I just came to the decision that it's time to take a break.

It allows me to spend summer here in New Zealand and spend more time with my family."

Williams, who has a wife and a 9-year-old son, didn't expect finding work to be a problem.

"I've already had a couple of offers to caddy, but I'm not sure that's what I want to do," he said, adding that he was exploring other opportunities. □

Windows 10 tries blending new with familiar

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft is trying to soften an unpopular redesign of Windows by reviving features from older versions while still attempting to nudge desktop users into a world of touch screens and mobile devices.

The company on Tuesday gave an early preview of the new Windows 10 software, which it aims to begin selling by the middle of next year. Although the current version is called Windows 8, Microsoft says it's skipping ahead to Windows 10 to emphasize its effort to move forward.

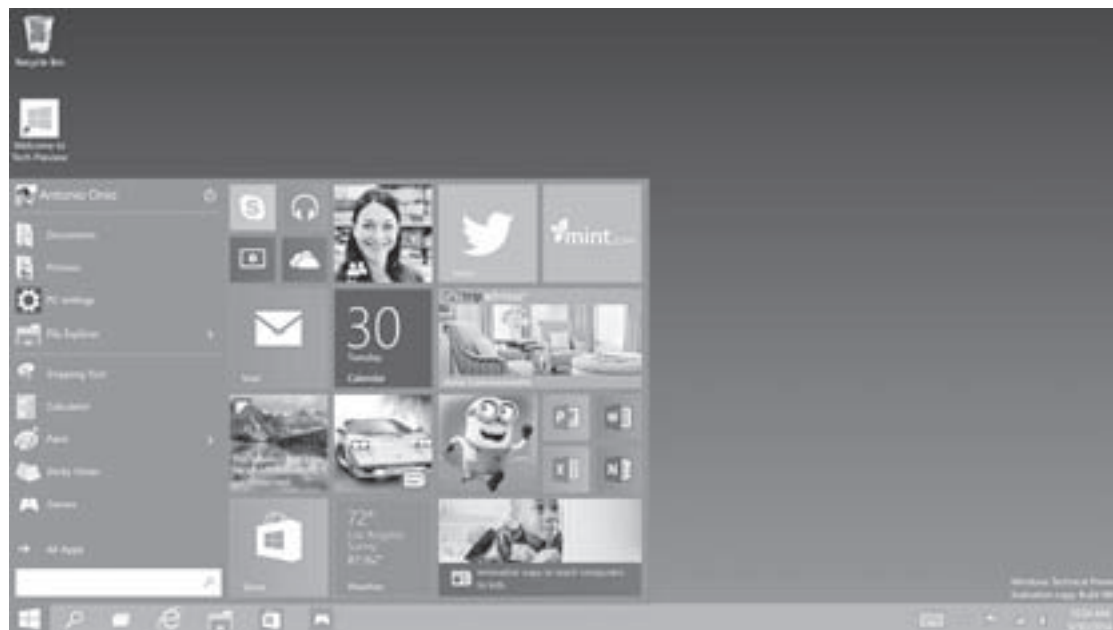
"Windows 10 represents the first step in a whole new generation of Windows," said Terry Myerson, executive vice president of Microsoft's operating systems group.

Windows 8 was introduced two years ago as an answer to the growing demand for mobile devices. But many users hated it because its tablet-like design and controls weren't a good fit for many devices using keyboards and mice. Sales of personal computers continued to fall.

With Windows 10, Microsoft is trying to regain the loyalty of longtime PC users, while reaching out to consumers and businesses that are increasingly adopting touch-screen smartphones and tablets.

Analysts consider the success of the new Windows crucial for Microsoft and new CEO Satya Nadella, who must show that Microsoft can embrace mobile devices without sacrificing the traditional computing experience.

The new system will be a blend of the old and the new. For instance, it will have various controls that are familiar to users of older Windows systems, such as a start menu to quickly access apps. But this start button will also open a series of tiles that resemble what's found in Windows 8. Analysts said that more gradual transition is important if Microsoft wants to persuade users to up-



This image provided by Microsoft shows the start menu of Windows 10, the company's next version of its flagship operating system. The company is skipping version 9 to emphasize advances it is making toward a world centered on mobile devices and Internet services.

Associated Press

grade.

"This is what Windows 8 should have been," said Carolina Milanesi, a veteran tech analyst at the research firm Kantar Worldpanel. "Here they are doing the right thing."

Microsoft executives signaled they got that message on Tuesday. They stressed repeatedly that using the next version of Windows won't be a challenge for businesses or consumers who have continued to use Windows 7 or even earlier versions.

The new software seeks to offer "the familiarity of Windows 7 with some of the benefits that exist in Windows 8," said Joe Belfiore, a Microsoft executive who oversees Windows design and evolution.

He compared it to buying a new car with a more powerful engine and a better audio system, without having to "learn a new way to drive."

Windows 10, for instance, will suggest new ways to use or navigate through files, without forcing users to abandon the old way, Belfiore said.

"We're designing the experience so that as you use it, the things you already know are familiar and present, but new value is presented to you at a rate that's easier for you to ingest," he said.

The effort drew tentative praise from several industry

experts.

"They desperately needed to find a way to bridge that experience. I just wish they'd done that with Windows 8," said Rob Enderle, a tech analyst with the Enderle Group.

Milanesi said that while many businesses resisted upgrading to Windows 8, they can't avoid touch screens as younger workers are accustomed to using phones or tablets as their primary computing device. Windows 10 will also be designed to work on a wider

range of computing devices.

Microsoft currently has three main systems — Windows 8 for traditional computers and tablets, Windows Phone 8 for cell phones and Xbox for its gaming console. By unifying the underlying systems in Windows 10, software developers will be able to create apps for the various devices more easily. Consumers will also be able to switch devices more easily and avoid having to buy the same apps multiple

times.

That doesn't mean the apps will always look the same. Developers will still be able to adapt apps for the various screen sizes, but won't have to start from the beginning for each version.

User interfaces on the various devices may also differ, even as they share underlying technologies. For now, Microsoft plans to keep the current Xbox interface on the game console.

Enderle said Microsoft's effort to create a single platform should help lure more developers to write apps — something the company needs to boost usage of Windows tablets and phones.

Windows is the most widely used PC operating system in the world, but it is steadily losing ground as more people turn to smartphones and tablets, which primarily run on operating systems from Microsoft rivals Apple and Google. That's why Nadella wants to create one system that will run on all devices.

"It's certainly an ambitious goal, but it's also a little early to tell how it will work," said Michael Silver, a tech analyst at Gartner.

San Francisco expands free public Wi-Fi access

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

San Francisco launched free Wi-Fi access at more than 30 public parks, plazas and recreation areas on Wednesday, thanks to a grant from Google.

"Wi-Fi in our city's parks is another step toward a larger vision of connectivity for our city as a whole, bridging the digital divide and ensuring that our diverse communities have access to innovation," Mayor Ed Lee said in a statement.

Internet giant Google donated about \$600,000 to help the city buy and install Wi-Fi equipment and cover maintenance cost for two years, according to the San

Francisco Chronicle.

"This network will make the web more accessible than ever for thousands of our neighbor — getting online is as easy as heading to the local park," Rebecca Prozan, Google's public policy and government affairs manager, said in a statement.

Union Square, Balboa Park, Alamo Square and Children's Tenderloin Rec Center are among the places where people can log on by choosing the "#sf-wifi" option on their smartphones, tablets or laptops. City officials have been talking about providing free Wi-Fi citywide for the

past seven years, but the rollout has been slower than anticipated.

Free access is already available in parts of City Hall, public libraries, San Francisco International Airport and along the Market Street corridor.

The free Internet initiative will help many low-income students who need Internet access to do online homework assignments, and parents can use e-mail more easily to communicate with the school, said Rodney Chin, executive director of the Buchanan YMCA. "It's a step toward leveling the playing field," Chin told the Chronicle.

Wall Street drops sharply; Airlines tumble

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a rough start to October for financial markets Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial average dropping more than 200 points as investors reacted to a round of negative economic news in the U.S. and abroad.

At first stocks were driven lower by word that German manufacturing had slowed last month. The selling accelerated after a separate survey indicated U.S. manufacturing slowed as well.

"A lot of people thought this economic data was going to be robust, so when it was weak, everyone moved to reposition," said Tom di Galoma, head of rates and credit trading at ED&F Man Capital.

Investors were also selling stocks following news that the first case of Ebola had been diagnosed in the U.S. Investors dumped airline stocks and bought a handful of drug companies working on experimental Ebola treatments.

The blue chip Dow index lost 238.19 points, or 1.4 percent, to 16,804.71. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 26.13 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,946.16 and the Nasdaq composite lost 71.30 points, or 1.6 percent, to 4,422.09. The report that set off most of the selling in the U.S. was the Institute for Supply Management's monthly manufacturing survey, one of the more closely watched economic

indicators that investors look for each month. The ISM index came in at 56.6, below the 58.5 economists expected.

In Germany, Markit reported that manufacturing contracted in September, the latest sign that Europe is being affected by the economic

indicators that investors look for each month. The ISM index came in at 56.6, below the 58.5 economists expected.

In European markets, Germany's DAX finished 1 percent lower, France's CAC 40 lost 1.2 percent and the U.K.'s FTSE 100 ended down 1 percent.

"We're in a global economy these days, and U.S.

yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 2.39 percent from 2.49 percent late Tuesday, a big move. Gold prices rose \$3.90, or 0.3 percent, to \$1,215.50 an ounce.

Utility stocks, which investors favor during times of volatility because of their higher-

workers last month and no change in the unemployment rate, which stands at 6.1 percent.

Despite October's bad start, analysts believe the next three months should be good for investors.

In recent years, the stock market has risen sharply in the last three months of the year. The S&P 500 rose 10 percent in the fourth quarter last year and 11 percent in the same period in 2011. In 2012 the S&P 500 did fall in the fourth quarter, but only by 1 percent.

"I am not overly concerned about (Wednesday's sell-off)," Rubin said. "The reports were negative today, but most investors believe the U.S. economy is on solid footing and is still on track for a recovery. I still think it's a good time to be an investor in the market."

News that the first case of Ebola was diagnosed in the U.S. reverberated through several industries. Airlines were among the hardest hit as investors feared people would be discouraged from traveling. American Airlines fell \$1.09, or 3 percent, to \$34.39 and Delta fell \$1.25, or 3.5 percent, to \$34.90. Southwest Airlines fell \$1.22, or 3.6 percent, to \$32.55.

Drugmakers developing potential vaccines or treatments for Ebola rose. Tekmira Pharmaceuticals jumped \$4.11, or 17 percent, to \$27.85 after the company said it may start clinical trials for an Ebola drug this year. NewLink Genetics, another company looking into Ebola treatments, rose \$1.53, or 7 percent, to \$22.95.

In commodities, oil fell to its lowest price since April 2013 on concerns that a weakening global economy will lead to lower oil demand. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 43 cents to close at \$90.73 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 51 cents to close at \$94.16 on the ICE Futures exchange in London. □



Traders Gregory Rowe, left, and Robert Charmack work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. It was a rough start to October for financial markets Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial average dropping more than 200 points.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

sanctions on Russia. It was the first slowdown in 15 months.

The report came a day before Naples, Italy hosts the European Central Bank's latest policy meeting. There will be great interest in what ECB President Mario Draghi will say about possible monetary stimulus from the central bank following

companies get a lot of their revenue and earnings from outside the U.S.," said Matthew Rubin, director of investment strategy at Neuberger Berman. "Investors have valid concerns that the European slowdown could hit companies' bottom line."

Traders moved quickly into U.S. government bonds. The

than-average dividends, were among the few that rose Wednesday. The Dow Jones utility index, a collection of 15 utility companies, increased 0.4 percent.

Investors now look forward to Friday, when the U.S. government will release the monthly job figures. Economists are expecting that employers added 215,000

Coca-Cola revises executive pay after criticism

CANDICE CHOI

AP Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola is curtailing its pay plan for executives after shareholders including Warren Buffett called it excessive. The world's largest beverage maker said Wednesday its long-term incentive program will now distribute the company's shares to a smaller group of executives, while the rest will be rewarded with cash bonuses instead.

That will mean the total shares authorized to be

awarded under the plan will last longer. In addition, Coke said the mix of long-term equity awards will be adjusted to be more heavily weighted to performance shares, rather than stock options.

Coca-Cola's pay plan came under scrutiny earlier this year after Wintergreen Advisers called it a "raw deal" for shareholders, particularly in light of the company's slowing growth as it faces declining soda consumption in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

Wintergreen CEO Dave Winters had said the company's equity plan would transfer roughly \$13 billion to management over the next four years.

In a statement Wednesday, Winters said, "Coca-Cola has finally conceded that the equity compensation plan it put to a vote of shareholders in April was outrageously excessive and inconsistent with past plans."

Buffett, whose Berkshire Hathaway is Coke's biggest shareholder, is a long-

time critic of excessive pay packages. But he said Berkshire Hathaway didn't vote against the plan at Coca-Cola's annual meeting because he didn't want to publicly express disapproval of the company's management.

Afterward, however, Buffett said he discussed his concerns about the pay plan with Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent.

Buffett did not immediately respond Wednesday to questions sent to his assistant. □

Why the US bond market is more fragile than you think

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A bottleneck is building in the global market for bonds.

Main Street investors have poured a trillion dollars into bonds since the financial crisis, and helped send prices soaring. As fund managers and regulators fret about an inevitable sell-off, the bigger fear is that when people go to unload, there won't be anyone to buy.

Too many funds own the same bonds, making them difficult to sell if panic ensues. On top of that, the banks that used to bring bond buyers and sellers together have pulled back from the role. If investors started looking to sell, they'd be slow to find buyers, spreading fear through the \$100 trillion global bond market and sending prices tumbling.

It's a situation known as "liquidity risk" and some bond pros are scrambling to prepare for it.

Worried portfolio managers are hoarding cash. BlackRock, the world's largest fund manager, is suggesting regulators consider new fees for investors pulling out of funds. Apollo Management, famous for profiting from a bond collapse 25 years ago, is launching a fund to bet against bonds.

What's at risk is more than money in retirement accounts. Big investors often borrow when buying bonds and so losses can be magnified. Trillions of dollars of bets using derivatives ride on bonds, too. A small fall in prices could lead to losses that reverberate throughout the financial system.

"There's no place to hide," says JPMorgan's William Eigen, head of the Strategic Income Opportunities fund, who has 63 percent of his portfolio in cash.

Here are the reasons bond experts are worried:

HIGH PRICES: Demand and prices have soared for nearly every kind of bond, even the diciest. Since the start of 2009, funds invested in "junk" bonds from risky companies have returned an average 14 percent each year, double its average in the prior six years.

RISE OF QUICK-HIT INVESTORS: The biggest owners in many bonds are small Main Street investors more easily spooked than traditional holders like insurers and pension funds. Main Street investors buying through mutual funds and exchange traded funds, vehicles for quick-trading, own 40 percent of corporate bonds, according to the International Monetary Fund. The insurers and pension funds that help stabilize the market by sticking with bonds through busts hold 25 percent.

RATE HIKES: This market faces a big test next year when the Federal Reserve is expected to start raising interest rates. When the Fed announced a series of surprise rate hikes in 1994, bond prices plunged, a big hedge fund collapsed, companies like Procter & Gamble were hit with losses and Orange County, California, had to file for bankruptcy.

Many people don't think the rate increases next year will roil the bond market much because the Fed is telegraphing its every move. But given the high prices and lack of liquidity, not everyone is confident.

"The market isn't pricing in the risk that it's going to be like 1994 — or even worse," says Hans Mikkelsen, global credit strategist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. His worries were echoed recently in an IMF report warning that a breakdown in trading could lead to "fire sales" in some parts of the bond market.

TRADING PROBLEM: To buy or sell many kinds of bonds, you have to phone or email brokers at banks and other firms who pair buyers and sellers.

For September;

Truck deals boost US auto sales

DEE-ANN DURBIN
TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Big discounts on pickup trucks kept U.S. auto sales strong in September.

General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group led the industry with 19-percent sales increases over last September. Toyota sales rose 2 percent; Ford and Volkswagen were down. U.S. sales rose 9 percent to 1.2 million cars and trucks, according to Autodata Corp. The sales pace slowed after a blistering August, which was the best month for the industry in eight years. But Sep-

also hoping to take advantage of Ford, which has temporarily closed a truck factory to retool for its new aluminum-clad F-150. Ford cut back on discounts in order to keep more trucks in stock during the shut-down. As a result, GM said its light-duty Silverado outsold Ford's F-150 for the first month since 2011, and for only the second time in the last five years.

Pickup truck owners are the most loyal in the industry, but they also have come to expect big discounts, said Larry Dominique, president of the ALG auto forecasting firm. Full-size truck buy-

of the Escape small SUV fell 4 percent; Ford blamed that on a sharp cutback on sales to rental car companies.

GM's sales totaled 223,437 cars and trucks. Three of its four brands saw double-digit gains; Cadillac sales were flat compared with last September.

Sales of the Chevrolet Silverado pickup rose 54 percent to 50,176. GM averaged just under \$5,000 in incentives per pickup, which was 30 percent, or \$1,140, higher than a year ago, according to estimates by J.D. Power and Associates. By comparison, Ford



Rain drops rest on the hood of a Jeep Grand Cherokee at Bill DeLuca's dealerships in Haverhill, Mass., Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014. Chrysler Group says its U.S. sales rose 19 percent in September thanks to strong demand for the new Jeep Cherokee SUV and the Ram pickup.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

tember's annualized pace of 16.4 million vehicles — down from 17.5 million in August — is closer to what analysts are predicting for the full year.

While August was fueled by Labor Day promotions and incentives on midsize cars, September saw good deals on pickup trucks. Chevrolet was advertising up to \$8,500 off the price of a crew cab Silverado with a trade-in, while Chrysler's Ram was offering zero-percent interest.

The second half of the year is usually stronger for pickup sales, and stable gas prices, employment gains and higher consumer confidence have more people shopping for trucks, automakers said.

But GM and Chrysler were

ers may spend their entire annual income on a truck, Dominique said, so they're sensitive to price.

"If you have two or three good trucks in the marketplace and Ram has an extra \$2,500, they can pull off the fringes from each other," he said. But automakers should beware: Those customers may not stay loyal when it's time to buy a new truck.

Ford's sales dropped 3 percent to 180,175 as F-Series pickup sales dropped 1 percent to 59,863. It was the first time in seven months that Ford's monthly truck sales have dropped below 60,000.

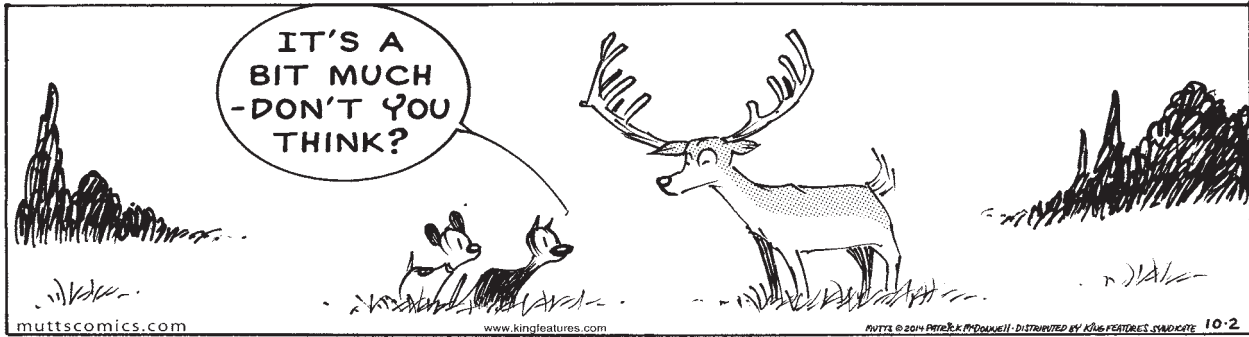
Ford Motor Co. saw a 9 percent increase in Fusion sedan sales, but otherwise its car sales were down. Sales

said its incentive spending dropped \$160 per truck to \$4,300. GM's SUV sales were also strong. Sales of the recently revamped Cadillac Escalade more than doubled, while Chevrolet Traverse sales rose 45 percent.

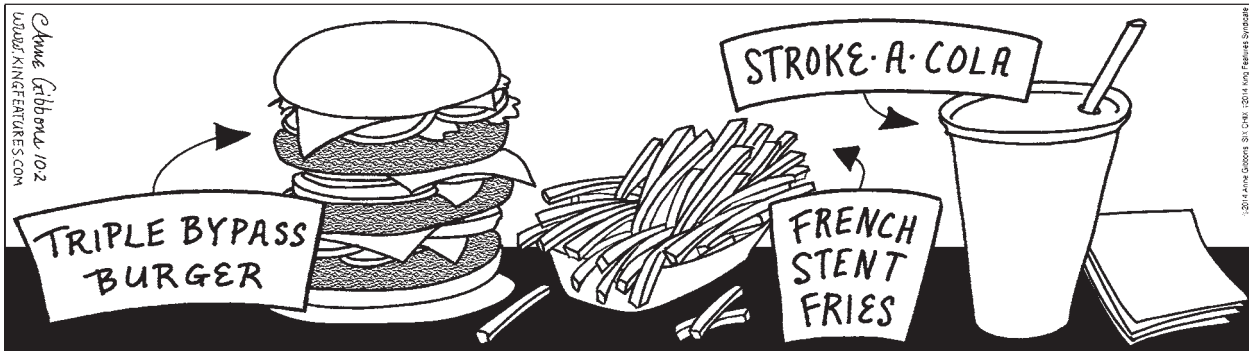
Chrysler sold 169,890 cars and trucks, its best September since 2005. Ram truck sales rose 30 percent to 36,612 after Chrysler raised Ram incentives by 22 percent to \$4,640.

Chrysler also benefited from buyers' increasing preference for small SUVs. Sales of the Jeep Cherokee, which was introduced late last year, surpassed the bigger Grand Cherokee for the first time. Jeep brand sales increased by 47 percent over last September.

Mutts



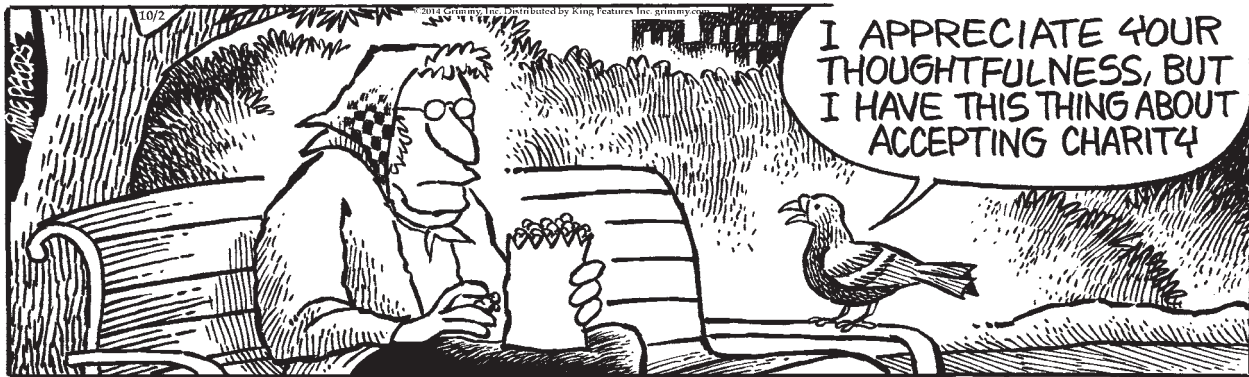
6 Chix



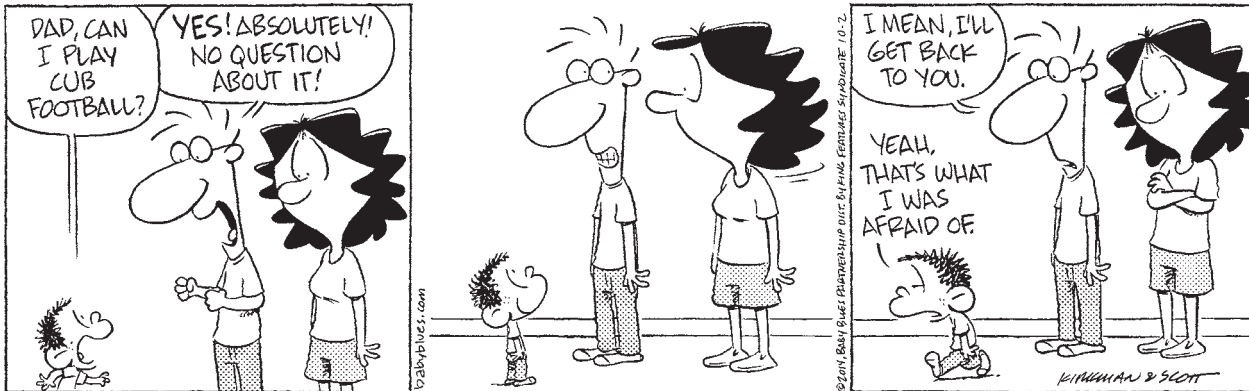
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			8	2		4	
6				1		9	
	4						
1				8			7
	5		6	9	7		8
7				4			2
						3	
		4		6			5
	8		7	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

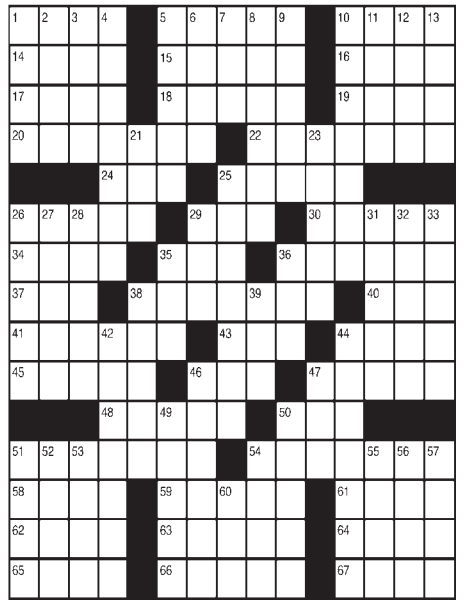
6	8	5	4	9	1	7	3	2
2	9	4	7	6	3	1	8	5
3	7	1	8	5	2	4	6	9
8	3	9	2	1	6	5	7	4
1	2	7	5	8	4	3	9	6
5	4	6	9	3	7	2	1	8
7	6	2	1	4	8	9	5	3
9	1	3	6	2	5	8	4	7
4	5	8	3	7	9	6	2	1

ACROSS

- Goofs up
- from; besides
- Caramel-topped custard
- Cut of pork
- Actor Willem
- Take a fancy to
- Burrowing animal
- Leave high and dry
- Fail to include
- Harder to scale
- Buster & Diane
- Ruby or scarlet
- over; faints
- Group of eight
- Auction offer
- Can wrapper
- Lean-to
- Enjoyment
- Zodiac twins
- Automobile
- Stress
- Actor Duryea
- Scared
- Cow's remark
- At someone's and call
- Kingdom
- Aristotle's "T"
- Half-quarts
- Started
- Nov.'s follower
- Digit, such as 1, 2, 3, etc.
- Mimic
- "Put shut up!"
- Related
- Brooklyn team
- Calico or collie
- Woody or Tim
- Relative
- Movie award
- Rub enough to make sore
- firma; land
- Olive Oyl's hairstyle
- Obama's VP
- legislation; pass laws
- Connections
- Nourished
- Wet sticky stuff
- Stopwatch

DOWN

- Lawn trees
- Underground plant part
- Vex
- Had a look of contempt
- Found a sum
- Couple
- Fore and
- Swayed back and forth
- Giggler's sound
- Floating debris
- Chauffered car, for short
- Related
- Brooklyn team
- Calico or collie
- Woody or Tim
- Relative
- Movie award
- Rub enough to make sore
- firma; land
- Olive Oyl's hairstyle
- Obama's VP
- legislation; pass laws
- Connections
- Nourished
- Wet sticky stuff
- Stopwatch



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/2/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

FAIR	OCTET	MESA
AWRY	DRONE	OVEN
CARE	DUNDERHEAD	
EYE	MISS	EARN'S
LOATH	FBI	
TEENSY	PIERCE	
ELVES	RURAL	ADO
AVAS	TAROT	SLID
SIN	LINES	SPICE
STRING	PIANO	SHIFTS
OAT	PIANO	
ABHOR	POEM	RAG
REASSURING	ONCE	
CANT	NIECE	CITE
SUDS	OGRES	TASK

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10/2/14

- Debtor's note
- Einstein and Schweitzer
- Two-wheeler
- Inborn ability
- Energy
- Argon & helium
- Amounts to be swallowed
- Naked
- Come; find by chance
- Shape; form
- Black card
- Urge gently
- Pinnacle
- Touches lightly
- Red beet

Mecca

Continued from Page 11

Overseeing Mecca is also a key source of prestige for Saudi Arabia's monarchy. The past two kings — the current one, Abdullah, and his predecessor, Fahd — have adopted the further title of "custodian of the two holy mosques" to boost their status, referring to Mecca's Grand Mosque and Muhammad's mosque in nearby Medina.

Now Mecca is being molded to a particularly Saudi vision that bolsters the rule of the Al Saud royal family. Two forces shape that vision. One is raw, petrodollar-fueled capitalism. Mecca's planners are largely catering to wealthier pilgrims by focusing on construction of five-star hotels, surrounding the Kaaba in marble-sheathed luxury. Nearby, pilgrims can shop at international chains, including a Paris Hilton store and a gender-segregated Starbucks. The other force is Wahhabism, the strict, puritanical interpretation of Islam that the Al Saud rulers elevated to the country's official doctrine. Saudi kings, for example, have given Wahhabi clerics a monopoly over preaching at the Grand Mosque. In return, the clerics staunchly back the monarchy.

One tenet of Wahhabism is that Muslim tombs or sites connected to revered figures — even the Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions — should be destroyed to avoid veneration of anything other than God. It's the same iconoclastic zeal that has prompted militants from the Islamic State group to blow up Muslim shrines in Iraq and Syria.

In Mecca, hardly any site associated with Muhammad remains. Many were destroyed in previous expansions of the Grand Mosque in the 1980s and 1990s, and the new development is finishing off much of what remains. In 2008, for example, the house of Abu Bakr, Muhammad's successor as leader of the Muslim community, was razed to make way for a Hilton.

The country's top religious

official, Grand Mufti Abdul-Aziz Al-Sheik, backed such demolitions last year, saying "the removal of such things within the expansion is necessary."

The urban renewal is necessary, Saudi officials say, to accommodate hajj pilgrims whose numbers are



In this Sept. 7, 1954 photo, Muslims visit the Kaaba, the Sacred House of Allah, during a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. As Muslims from around the world stream into Mecca for the annual hajj pilgrimage this week, they come to a city undergoing the biggest transformation in its history. (AP Photo)

expected to swell from around 3 million currently to nearly 7 million by 2040. The \$60-billion Grand Mosque expansion will almost double the area for pilgrims to pray at the Kaaba. Around half the cost went to buying about 5,800 homes that had to be razed for the expansion, said al-Bar, the Mecca mayor. Domes and pillars dating back to rule by the Ottoman Empire are being pulled down to put up modern facilities.

Another mega-project is Jabal Omar, a hill on the mosque's west side. The hill — a landmark in the city — was levelled and in its place, construction of around 40 towers is underway, mostly for luxury hotels providing some 11,000 rooms. The first of the Jabal Omar hotels, a Hilton Suites and the Anjum Hotel, just opened in the past few months.

On the mosque's south side stands the 1,972-foot (600-meter) clock-tower skyscraper, part of a completed seven-tower complex that was built after tearing down an Ottoman fort on the site.

Also underway is the Jabal Sharashif project, in which a slum that largely houses Burmese and African migrants is to be torn down to build a new neighborhood for Saudis, along with hotels. A four-line metro

system is planned for the city, along with a high-speed rail line to the port city of Jiddah, where the area's airport is located, and to Medina. The Grand Mosque's expansion is being headed by the Saudi Binladin Group, which also built the clock tower. The



Binladin family has been close to Al Sauds for decades and runs major building projects around the country. Al-Qaida's late leader Osama bin Laden was a renegade son disowned by the family in the 1990s.

Classifieds

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202767

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

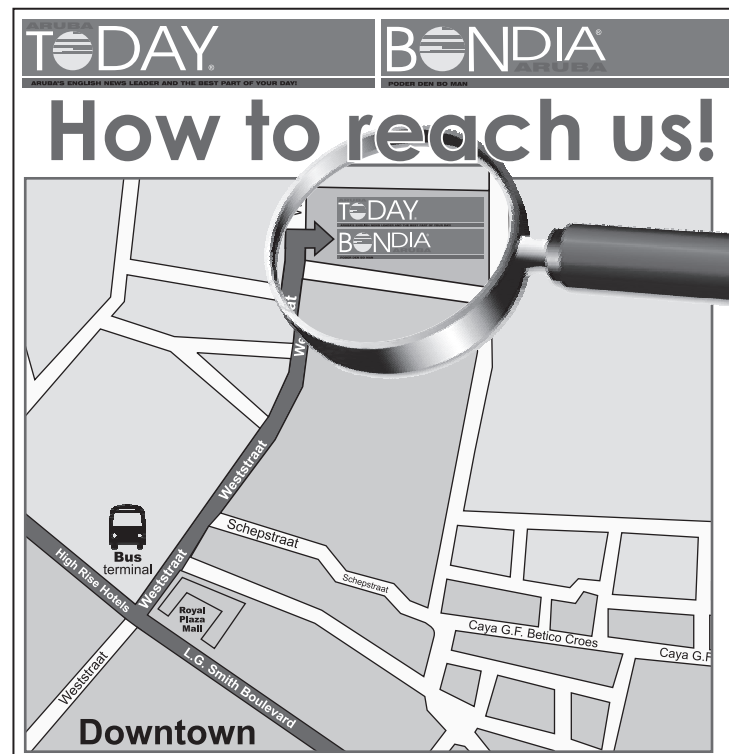
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SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
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Study: Recessions can postpone motherhood forever



In this March 5, 2009 file photo, job seekers join a line of hundreds of people at a job fair in New York. Tough economic conditions, including the Great Recession, are blamed for a five-year drop in the number of babies born in the U.S., starting in 2007.

Associated Press

By **MALCOLM RITTER**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- When the economy tanks, women have fewer babies. But what happens in the following years, when conditions improve? A massive new study suggests that for some U.S. women, living through a recession can mean they will never have children. In fact, the authors project that among women who were in their early 20s in 2008 - early in the so-called "Great Re-

cession" - about 151,000 will forgo having any children as a result, at least by age 40. Overall, the lingering impact of that recession may ultimately mean some 427,000 fewer children being born over the course of a couple decades, the authors say. On a societal level these effects are small. The projected number of childless women is a tiny fraction of the 9 million women in that age group, 20-24. The drop-off in births

isn't much for a nation that produces around 4 million babies a year. But the results still show "a pretty profound effect on some women's lives," said study author Janet Currie, a health economist at Princeton University. Currie and colleague Hannes Schwandt present their analysis in a paper released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. Past studies have generally shown women cut back on having babies when unemployment rises. In fact, tough economic conditions including the Great Recession are blamed for a five-year drop in the number of babies born in the U.S., starting in 2007. The idea is that during such times, many couples feel they can't afford to start or add to a family. The births decline ended with a slight increase last year.

For the new study, researchers used birth records and census data to track the reproductive histories up to age 40 for every woman born in the U.S. from 1961 to 1970. That's about 18 million people. To look for an effect from the economy, researchers compared the timing of when babies were conceived to unemployment levels at that time. Only conceptions that led to live births could be tracked. They looked for evidence that women who defer having children during tough times make up for it later on, ending up with the same number they would have had otherwise. "We were just trying to measure how much catch-up there was," Currie said in a telephone interview. When the research showed a shortfall for women who experience those tough times at ages 20 to 24, "we

were surprised." Currie said many women at that age are at a cross-roads in deciding whether to get married and have children. Poor economic times may discourage many women from doing so, and once the economy improves and the women have gotten older, they may be less likely to go ahead, she speculated. Other studies show that men who take a first job during a recession often get locked into lower earnings for the rest of their lives, so maybe those potential mates become less attractive to women, Currie said. No long-term effect on childbearing appeared for women of other ages. Dan Black, an economic demographer at the University of Chicago who had no role in the new study, said the finding of an effect on childlessness makes sense to him. □



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In this Feb. 24, 2014 file photo, singer Tony Bennett poses at the 20th anniversary screening of "A Bronx Tale" in New York. Associated Press

Tony Bennett sets mark as oldest act with No. 1 LP

NEW YORK (AP) — Even at age 88, Tony Bennett is still reaching No. 1 on the charts. The singer is once again the oldest performer with a No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 for "Cheek to Cheek," his jazz duets collaboration with Lady Gaga. "Cheek to Cheek" sold more than 131,000 copies since its release last week, according to Nielsen SoundScan, edging ahead of new albums by Kenny

Chesney and Barbra Streisand. The placement gives Bennett his second No. 1 overall and Gaga her third consecutive No. 1 album. Bennett established the previous record of 85 years old with the 2011 release of "Duets II," an album that included a song with Lady Gaga. "Cheek to Cheek" also landed at No. 1 on the jazz albums and traditional jazz album charts. □

GLAAD study: Gay depictions increase on TV

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television has increased its depiction of gay, lesbian and bisexual characters, with the edge going to cable and the Internet over broadcast networks, according to a study released Wednesday by the advocacy group GLAAD. Networks are promoting the understanding of gay lives with some of the most inclusive programs yet, but should "strive to include significant transgender content," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, which advocates for the inclusion of LGBT characters and stories in media, in a statement. Transgender characters are featured on cable and Internet fare such as the online series "Orange Is the New Black" from Netflix and "Transparent" from Amazon. In this year's Emmy Award nominations, "Orange Is the New Black" co-star Laverne Cox became the first openly transgender actress to receive a nod. The overall on-screen prog-



This photo released by Fox shows, Lea Michele, left, and Chris Colfer, in a scene from "Glee." The media advocacy group GLAAD on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, released its annual report on diversity on TV, including depictions of gay characters. Associated Press

ress comes as the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community has made social and political strides that include legalization of same-sex marriage in some U.S. states and the end of a military ban on openly gay service members.

In the 2014-15 season, the study by GLAAD said that 3.9 percent of 813 characters regularly seen on prime-time network scripted series will be lesbian, gay or bisexual, a total of 32 characters.

That represents an increase over last year's 3.3 percent, but is down from the 4.4 percent record high for LGBT depictions on network series in 2012.

Among the networks, Fox again emerged with the highest percentage of lesbian, gay or bisexual regular characters, 6.5 percent, with "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and "Glee" among the programs contributing to the tally. ABC, which had tied with Fox for first last year at 5.4 percent, dropped to 4.5 percent.

NBC is at 3.8 percent, up almost 3 points from last year, while CBS' shows had 3.2 percent gay, lesbian or bisexual characters, up from 1.9 percent from last season. The CW has no regular LGBT characters, the gay rights group said.

Among cable TV shows,

there were 64 regular LGBT characters, up from 42 last season. HBO has the most characters, followed by ABC Family and Showtime. One transgender character, on ABC Family's "The Fosters," was found by the study.

"To be relevant to our audience we must reflect the world as they experience it, and we know that experience is based on valuing loving relationships, no matter the gender. This acknowledgment is especially gratifying because it means we are representing their view accurately," said Tom Ascheim, president of ABC Family, in a statement. GLAAD also studied other aspects of diversity on network TV.

Despite several new high-profile broadcast series starring women, including Alfre Woodward as the U.S. president in NBC's "State of Affairs" and Tea Leoni as secretary of state in CBS' "Madam Secretary," the percentage of female characters has declined to 40 percent, down 3 points from last year.

Ethnic characters on network shows make up 27 percent of the total, compared with 23 percent last season, with 1.4 percent depicted as people with disabilities, a slight increase from 1 percent in 2013. □

McAfee names Kimmel its 'most dangerous celebrity'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If you're about to Google Jimmy Kimmel, beware. Computer security company McAfee says the late night TV talk show host is the most dangerous celebrity to search for online. The company said Tuesday that a search for Kimmel carries a 19 percent chance of landing on a website that has tested positive for spyware, viruses or malware. The company has used its own site ratings to make the determination for the past eight years. Other celebrities McAfee deems dangerous this year include Ciara, Flo Rida, Bruce Springsteen, Chel-



In this March 20, 2014, file photo, television personality and event host Jimmy Kimmel attends the 2nd Annual "Rebels With a Cause" Gala benefiting the USC Center for Applied Molecular Medicine at Paramount Pictures Studios in Los Angeles. Associated Press

sea Handler and Christina Aguilera. Kimmel said on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Tuesday that he can't believe a kid who

played the clarinet and carried a briefcase to junior high school grew up to be the most dangerous celebrity of 2014. □

John Mellencamp and his impressive co-authors

DAVID BAUDER

AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — John Mellencamp feels he has some impressive co-writers for his latest songs, like playwright Tennessee Williams and folk legend Pete Seeger.

That they're both dead doesn't really matter. Mellencamp believes in channeling, that other voices speak through him when he's writing music. And, yes, he fully recognizes that sounds weird to outsiders.

"A lot of people call it 'inspiration,'" he said. "As long as you identify it as inspiration, then you're still trying to control it — 'I'm inspired to do this, but I'm going to do THIS.' You've got to get out of your own way. If you get out of your own way, then you can really write something that means something."

His 22nd album is accurately described by the title "Plain Spoken," released last week. It contains 10 literate, acoustic-based songs on religion, redemption, mature love and self-reflection, with humor thrown in. Call it age-appropriate music from a



In this Sept. 22, 2014 file photo, singer-songwriter John Mellencamp poses for a portrait to promote his 22nd album "Plain Spoken" at the Greenwich Hotel in New York.

Associated Press

62-year-old former rock star who now scoffs that rock is dead.

A Rolling Stone online article about Mellencamp one time was headlined: "He had one of the greatest careers in pop and rock and hated every minute of it."

Not quite true, Mellencamp said. He didn't like stardom, chafed at record company pressure and saw hits as the quickest way to make his mark in a competitive industry. He had plenty: "Jack and Diane," "Hurt

So Good," "Paper in Fire," "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.," "Pink Houses" — the list goes on.

His present feelings about songwriting and rock 'n' roll leave him with an uneasy relationship with many of those old songs, which are kind of like old high school chums you don't hang around with anymore. "Pink Houses," for instance, "was an inspiration song, but John got involved in the last verse and screwed it up," he said, drawing out the vowel in his own name.

The goal for "Plain Spoken," executive produced by T Bone Burnett, was to let the songs and melodies speak for themselves.

"I will rearrange all of the old songs and they will sound like they came off this record," said Mellencamp, who will tour for much of next year. "You'll recognize the songs, of course, but it won't be the arrangement that you're familiar with. It will become a whole new song."

Fans of roots-based music should appreciate the disc, said Jed Hilly, executive director of the Americana Music Association. Mellencamp already owns a lifetime achievement award from the organization.

"It's not filled with the pop hooks that the 'Jack and Diane' era are famous for," Hilly said. "But it's a very thoughtful record."

Mellencamp's recent comments about his need to make age-appropriate music are certain to rub some peers the wrong way. He doesn't see the point of running around a stage and singing about girls the way he did 30 years ago. He remembers seeing

James Brown in his prime and being electrified, then cringing 25 years later watching the soul master struggle to get up from his signature splits.

An example of how he talks to his peers is the song "The Isolation of Mister," about a headstrong man who got it all wrong when he was younger. Autobiography? To an extent, but Mellencamp said many can relate.

"I think that a lot of men when they reach a certain age, they realize what they've done and what their regrets are," he said. The Indiana resident's quieter music shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who's followed the last half of his career. What may take listeners aback is his voice, more weathered now and limited in its range.

"Two million cigarettes later and I finally sound like a black guy," he said. "Thank God. The cigarettes finally paid off. They're going to give me cancer and they're going to kill me, but for a short amount of time, they're going to make my voice sound like it should sound."



Director, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Kerry Brouher, speaks during the press view at the "Hollywood Costume" exhibit on Monday, Sept. 29, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is holding its first exhibit in the space that will become Hollywood's premier museum devoted to the movies. "Hollywood Costume" opens Thursday inside the

historic May Co. building on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, which is set to reopen as the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in 2017.

"This exhibition is... a launching point for the new museum," said museum director Kerry Brouher. "It's really marking our territory here

Film academy hosts 1st exhibit in new museum site

as the place where fabulous exhibitions will happen about the history of the motion picture."

The high-tech exhibit includes more than 150 costumes and dozens of digital monitors. Some show the stars as they looked when they wore the outfits; others play film clips of directors such as Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese discussing their collaborations with costume designers.

Visitors can see Charlie Chaplin's costume and cane from 1915's "The Tramp," Marlene Dietrich's beaded, fur-trimmed gown from 1937's "Angel" and Julie Andrews' "Mary Poppins" dress and umbrella from the 1964 film.

A collection of regal, gild-

ed gowns fit for a queen — Queen Elizabeth, to be exact — stand together, including one worn by Bette Davis in 1955's "The Virgin Queen" and another donned by Judi Dench in 1998's "Shakespeare in Love."

There is a section of superhero costumes, featuring Christopher Reeve as Superman flying overhead. Another area is dedicated to characters played by Meryl Streep, with video of the actress talking about how costumes affect her performances.

A gallery of some of the most iconic costumes dazzles with its breadth: The Edith Head-designed dress worn by Ginger Rogers in 1944's "Lady in the Dark";

the beaded gown and fur stole that adorned Marilyn Monroe in 1959's "Some Like it Hot"; John Travolta's groovy white suit from 1977's "Saturday Night Fever"; Julia Roberts' red dress from 1990's "Pretty Woman"; the blue velvet suit that transformed Mike Myers into "Austin Powers" in 1997; and two original pairs of ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in 1939's "The Wizard of Oz."

First shown at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, "Hollywood Costume" is curated by Deborah Nadoolman Landis, the costume designer who created the togas in "Animal House" and Indiana Jones' iconic look in "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

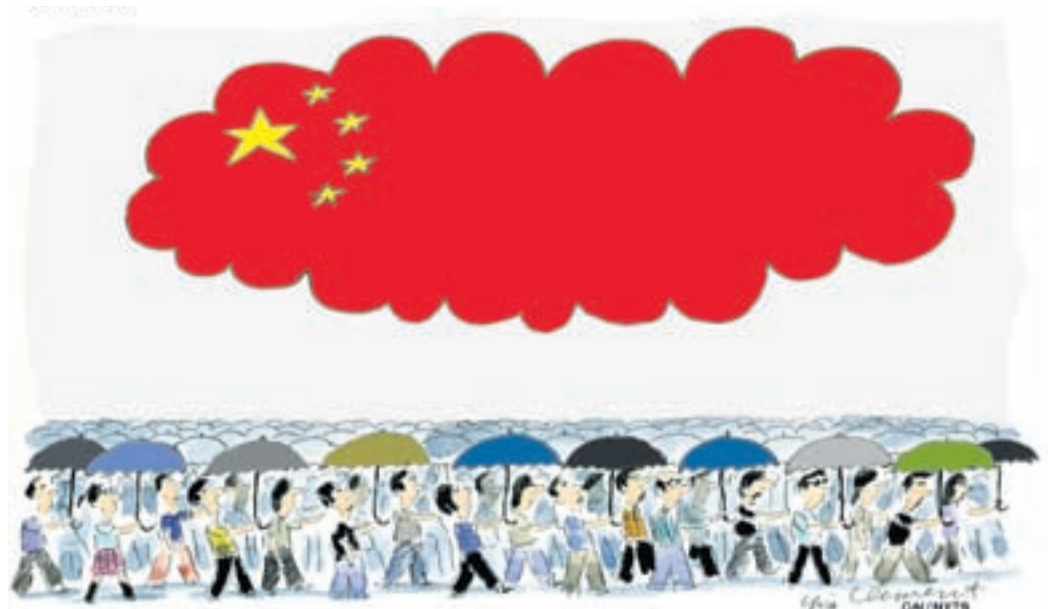
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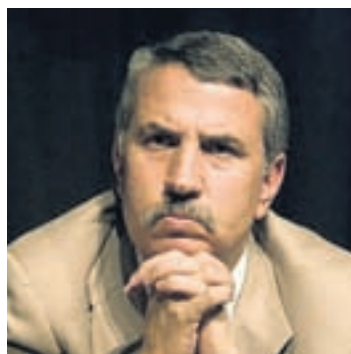
NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Earlier this month, my iPhone vanished. I looked up its location on an app called Find My Friends that my wife and I use, and I had a shock: The app said my phone was in a house 15 miles away, in a neighborhood that I'd never visited. I drove there. It was night. The house looked creepy. My wife stayed in the car, cell-phone in hand, ready to summon the cavalry. I walked to the front door and rang the doorbell. Nothing. The lights were on, so I rang again and knocked hard. I spent five minutes ringing the doorbell and pounding on the door. Finally, a man emerged. "I think you have my phone," I explained tautly. "Your phone?" he asked. "YOU HAVE MY PHONE!" "Oh," he said, "your phone." He pulled it out, still with my name, email address and office phone number pasted on it, and meekly handed it over. I left, no questions asked. Full of myself, I posted about the adventure on social media - and provoked a firestorm. A typical comment on Facebook, from Glenna: "Are you insane?" Many followers scolded me while others - particularly those abroad - expressed bewilderment that it should be dangerous to knock on a door and ask for one's property. Heidi asked: "What kind of society do we live in when knocking on someone's door to retrieve a lost iPhone becomes perceived as life-threatening?" Put aside the question of whether I was a knucklehead. Isn't there a larger question of why we tolerate a society so bristling with guns that such a quest may be perilous? Aren't we all knuckleheads for tolerating such a threat? About one-third of American households have guns, according to a Pew survey (a bit more, Gallup says), and these firearms kill 32,000 Americans a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Just last month, a Detroit man, Theodore Wafer, 55, was convicted of second-degree murder for shooting Renisha McBride, 19, who apparently knocked on his door seeking help after she was in a car ac-

cident. When I lived in Japan in the 1990s, I encountered bewilderment at the fate of a 16-year-old Japanese exchange student in Louisiana who had been invited to a Halloween party. The boy, Yoshihiro Hattori, mistakenly went to the wrong address and rang the bell. The homeowner, Rodney Peairs, came out with a gun and shouted, "Freeze." Yoshihiro didn't understand. Peairs shot him in the chest, killing him. We, as a country, should be ashamed that this prompted the Japanese government to teach its citizens traveling to the United States the word "freeze." As for Peairs, he had to live with himself. He was later quoted as saying that he would never again use a gun. We turn to guns in the belief that they will make us safer. Non-sense! Sure, there are cases where guns are successfully used for self-defense, but a study in the journal Injury Prevention found that the purchase of a handgun was associated with 2.4 times the risk of being murdered and 6.8 times the risk of suicide. Several other studies confirm that a gun in the house significantly increases the risk that a person in the home will be murdered or commit suicide. Partly that's because we misperceive the risks. We imagine a home invasion, but a study in the American Journal of Epidemiology found that 76 percent of homicide victims knew their assailant. That study also said that men with guns in the home are 10 times as likely to commit suicide in the home as men without a gun. Look, there are no simple solutions when we already have 300 million guns circulating in America. It's also fair to note that any single gun is not much of a danger (statistically, a child is more likely to die from a swimming pool at a house than from a gun in the house). But, with so many guns, often kept loaded without trigger locks, the collective toll is enormous. Just since 1968, it has been calculated, more Americans have died from gunfire than have died in all the wars in our country's history. The simplest baby step forward would be to institute universal background checks before gun purchases, to prevent sales to criminals. That was favored by 92 percent of Americans in a poll last year, as well as by three-quarters of members of the National Rifle Association. Yet the NRA leadership is so extreme that it fights even such a step, and craven politicians buckle to its will. I may have been a fool for trying to reclaim my phone. But we're all idiots for accepting a society where knocking on a door is a deadly risk. □



Who Had It Easier, Reagan or Obama?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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Over the past few weeks, I've been reading Ken Adelman's fascinating history "Reagan at Reykjavik: Forty-Eight Hours That Ended the Cold War." Adelman, who led President Ronald Reagan's arms control agency, was an adviser at Reagan's 1986 Iceland summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Using some newly declassified documents, Adelman fills out the extraordinary dialogue between the two leaders that set in motion a dramatic cut in nuclear arms. You learn a lot about Reagan's leadership in the book. For me, the most impressive thing was not Reagan's attachment to his "Star Wars" strategic defense initiative, which is overrated in ending the Cold War. What is most impressive about Reagan is that he grasped that Gorbachev was a radically different kind of Soviet leader - one with whom he could make history - long before his intelligence community did. That made a big difference. These days there is a lot of "if-only-Obama-could-lead-like-Reagan" talk by conservatives. I'll leave it to historians to figure out years from now who was the better president. But what I'd argue is this: In several critical areas, Reagan had a much easier world to lead in than Obama does now. "Easier world, are you kidding?" say conservatives. "Reagan was up against a Communist superpower that had thousands of nuclear missiles aimed at us! How can you say that?" Here's how: The defining struggle in Reagan's day was the

Cold War, and the defining feature of the Cold War was that it was a war between two different systems of order: Communism versus democratic capitalism. But both systems competed to build order - to reinforce weak states around the world with military and economic aid and win their support in the Cold War. And when either Moscow or Washington telephoned another state around the world, there was almost always someone to answer the phone. They even ensured that their proxy wars - like Vietnam and Afghanistan - were relatively contained. Obama's world is different. It is increasingly divided by regions of order and regions of disorder, where there is no one to answer the phone, and the main competition is not between two organized superpowers, but between a superpower and many superempowered angry men. On 9/11, we were attacked, and badly hurt, by a person: Osama bin Laden, and his superempowered gang. When superempowered angry men have more open space within which to operate, and more powerful weapons and communication tools, just one needle in a haystack can hurt us. Most important, Reagan's chief rival, Gorbachev, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 for doing something he never wanted to do: peacefully letting go of Eastern Europe. Obama's foes, like the Islamic State, will never win the Nobel Peace Prize. Reagan could comfortably challenge Gorbachev in Berlin to "tear down this wall" because on the other side of that wall was a bad system - Communism - that was suppressing a civilization in Eastern and Central Europe, and part of Russia, that was naturally and historically inclined toward democratic capitalism. And there were leaders there - like Lech Walesa, another Nobel Peace Prize winner - to lead the transition. We just needed to help remove the bad system and step aside. "The countries of Eastern and Central Europe were forcibly part of a Communist empire, but culturally were always part

of Western civilization," explained Michael Mandelbaum, the Johns Hopkins University foreign policy specialist and author of "The Road to Global Prosperity." "They never saw themselves as Communist, but rather as Westerners who had been kidnapped." After Gorbachev, under pressure from Reagan and the West, released them, "they ran as fast as they could to embrace Western institutions." In the Middle East, which has consumed so much of Obama's energy, the people tore down their walls - their systems - but underneath was not a civilization with the suppressed experience, habits and aspirations of democracy and free markets. Instead, it was a toxic mix of Islamism, tribalism, sectarianism and an inchoate aspiration for democracy. Reagan's leadership challenge was to bring down a wall and then reap the peace dividends by just letting nature take its course. Obama's challenge is that on the other side of the wall that the Arabs took down lies the world's biggest nation-building project, with a civilization that is traumatized, divided and often culturally hostile to Western values and institutions. It's an enormous job that only the locals can lead. The one time that Reagan faced the miniversion of Obama's challenge was in Lebanon. After Israel toppled the Palestinian ministate there, Reagan hoped it would unleash a naturally democratic order, with just a little midwifing help from U.S. Marines. But after 241 U.S. servicemen were blown up in Beirut in 1983, Reagan realized that the civilization there was a mix of Islamists, sectarian Christians, Syrians, Shiite militias, Palestinian refugees and democrats. It required a lot more than us just standing guard. It required nation-building. And what did Reagan do? He left. I was there to wave goodbye to the last Marines on the beaches of Beirut. So comparing Reagan with Obama in foreign policy is inevitable. But when you do, also compare their respective contexts. The difference is revealing. □

As Wild Horses Overrun West, Ranchers Fear for Land

DAVE PHILIPPS

© 2014 New York Times

BEAVER COUNTY, Utah -

When he was a boy on a 150,000-acre ranch here in the desert mountains, which are so remote that there are no power lines and electricity comes from a turbine in a mountain spring, Mark Wintch would thrill at the sight of a rare band of wild horses kicking up dust as they disappeared over a rise.

"Now there're so darned many," Wintch, 38, said, shaking his head as he bounced his red pickup through sage-dotted pub-

by a perplexing system on the brink of a crisis.

There are now twice as many wild horses in the West as federal land managers say the land can sustain. The program that manages them has broken down, and unchecked populations pose a threat to delicate public land, as well as the ranches that rely on it.

For decades, the Bureau of Land Management has relied on a strategy of rounding up excess horses with helicopters and storing them in a system of private ranches and feedlots.

State University. "I'm worried we are entering an intractable situation that will damage the land for decades."

If left unchecked, horse populations could decimate grass and water on public lands, he said, potentially leading to starvation among horse herds and other native species, as well as lawsuits from ranchers and wildlife groups.

Wintch and a group of other local ranchers sued the federal government in April, demanding that it remove excess wild horses.

and cavalry mounts, as well as more recent ranch stock. Roaming a patchwork of parched range-land roughly the size of Alabama, they have been protected by federal law since 1971 from capture or hunting. Since then, the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees most of the herds, has said that keeping the population around 26,000 would ensure the long-term health of the horses and the land.

"It's a triage situation," said Steve Ellis, the Bureau of Land Management's deputy director for opera-

But patience in parts of the West has worn as thin as the grass. Ranchers in Wyoming won a lawsuit this summer that demanded the agency remove horses from public and private lands east of Rock Springs. Though the agency had little room in storage, it was forced to round up almost 900 horses there in September. The Bureau of Land Management expects more lawsuits as horse populations grow, pushing storage costs even higher. "For years, we all warned they were managing their way into a crisis, and now they have it," said Ginger Kathrens, the executive director of the horse advocacy group the Cloud Foundation, as she watched helicopters sweep the sage at a roundup in Rock Springs. She said she feared the Bureau of Land Management and ranchers would use the situation to pressure lawmakers to slaughter horses in storage. Horse advocacy groups say that the population problem is overblown, and that the agency has unfairly relegated horses to scraps of marginal land where they are vastly outnumbered by cattle, then blamed the horses for the damage done by all grazers. Many are pushing for expanded horse territories and better management on the range.

But those advocates also agree that the practice of removing and storing horses is unsustainable.

"We don't want to sue, but this is killing us financially," said Tammy Pearson, who ranches near Wintch.

This summer, she kept her cattle out of the Bureau of Land Management pasture she leases because, she said, the horses had eaten the grass.

"It's not a horse issue," she said, looking across the pasture, where about 60 wild horses grazed. "It's a range health issue. This land is getting beat up pretty good. Sure, it's easy to blame the ranchers, but if you took us all off the land, you still wouldn't solve the problem. The horses would just continue to expand."



Wild horses make their way toward a trap on Bureau of Land Management property outside of Rock Springs, Wyo. There are now twice as many wild horses in the West as federal land managers say the land can sustain, and the system for keeping them under control is on the verge of crisis.
(Michael Friberg/The New York Times)

lic land that his family has ranched since 1935. "Look out there. You barely see a blade of grass."

Management plans by the federal government call for no horses in this area. But five horses looked up in alarm at his truck, then wheeled off through the brush. "I counted 60 last night," Wintch said. "If I put my cows out here, they'd starve."

Wild horses may be a symbol of America's unbound freedom in the Old West. But in the new West, they are a tightly controlled legal entity, protected by federal law and managed

But now there are almost 50,000 horses in storage, and the system is out of space and money. In response, the agency has drastically cut roundups, leaving horses to multiply on the range.

The Bureau of Land Management says that Western rangelands can sustain about 26,000 wild horses. There are now 48,000. In five years, there could be more than 100,000, according to agency projections.

"It's a train wreck," said Robert Garrott, a professor of wildlife management and ecology at Montana

While some ranchers and politicians have pushed to slaughter the horses in storage to free up money and space to continue roundups, Garrott said the idea had proved so controversial that the Bureau of Land Management and Congress had repeatedly refused.

"Horses are so beloved in our society that no one wants to make a hard decision," Garrott said. "So we take this disastrous policy and just keep kicking it down the road."

Wild horses today are the descendants of stray American Indian ponies

tions. "We can't do all we need to."

The agency usually rounds up about 9,000 animals a year. This year, it will round up just 2,500.

Ellis said he was exploring new strategies, such as sending some excess animals to Guatemalan farmers, but the agency does not have a broad, long-term solution.

"It's going to take some patience," Ellis said. "I know some people will say, 'We've been patient for 20 years,' but we have to look forward. This tough situation we are in is not going to be fixed overnight."